

Early Years Topic Letter

Spring 2

Welcome back and I hope you had a wonderful break!

Gentle reminders:

Willowburn will continue on a Monday (for Reception) and the children will be taking part in **SWIMMING lessons**. The children will need to bring their swimming things in a bag to take to Willowburn but can still continue to come in their sweatpants and PE clothes. A PE hoodie is useful as the children can be cold when they get out of the pool.

Please remember a **WATERPROOF COAT** at all times in school, we go out in all weathers so a hat, scarf and gloves will also be needed in school.

Please make sure every item of clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Please remember to log onto your child's **tapestry** account regularly, this will help you to see what your child's next steps are and will help you to support your child's learning. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don't forget to upload achievements and experiences at home!

Please remember to contact the office if there is any change to your child's end of day collection arrangements.

We are really excited to have developed our early years outdoor classroom and our forest school area and are excited to be able to benefit from lots of new experiences. We are still working on our outdoor classroom but the children are already enjoying the new areas!

Dates for the diary

Friday 1st March - I am out on an Early Years Mathematics training course all day, the class will be covered by a supply teacher, Mrs Pattison. The children are already familiar with Mrs Pattison and have seen her around school as she has covered Class One. Mrs Manners will also be in Early Years all day so the children will have a familiar adult.

Tuesday 19th March - Health and Weight check for Reception children.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - Children are invited to dress up as a favourite character and will take part in lots of themed activities during the day.

Monday 25th March - Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 6pm.

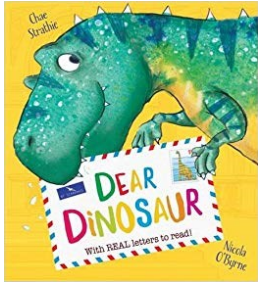
Tuesday 26th March - Tapestry parent workshop (3:30pm - 4pm)

Friday 5th April - Non uniform day (raising funds for the PTA).

Friday 5th April - Easter themed Stay and Play 9 - 10am, we also Break up for Easter.

Possible trip to Seven Stories: Elmer Workshop (date to be confirmed).

Dear Dinosaur!



As I have explained previously, our topics change depending on our children's interests. This half term we had planned to follow the theme of wild animals and focus on the text 'Dear Zoo'. However, the children are very interested in Dinosaurs and have been asking lots of questions around this fascination. Therefore, our topic this half term will now focus on Dinosaurs and we will base lots of our learning around the book 'Dear Dinosaur'.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

PSED is constantly promoted all day every day in Early Years for example, sharing, taking turns, understanding their own emotions, listening to their friends and following classroom rules are reinforced on an hourly basis in Early Years. This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Adjusting behaviours to different situations, solving problems and negotiating, talking about our own emotions and thinking about how others feel and being confident to speak in a group of children and share our own ideas or opinions.

We are focusing heavily on PSED at the moment as an area that needs to be developed for many of our children and therefore hope to plan a trip to 'Seven Stories' this half term to take part in an interactive workshop based around the Elmer story: 'Elmer's Special Day.' This will involve the children thinking carefully about inclusion and differences, how people/characters might feel, sharing and what makes us special!



Communication and Language

This half term we will be focusing on:

Learning new language specific vocabulary linked to our Dinosaur topic.

Learning to retell familiar stories such as 'Dear Dinosaur' and making up our own stories, acting them out on our stage.

Thinking about how the end of a story might change and making story predictions.

Using positional language accurately.

Speaking using more complex sentence and explaining ourselves clearly.

Talking accurately about past, present and future events, linking this to our topic.

Asking our own questions and being inquisitive.



Physical Development

This half term we will be focusing on:

We will continue to promote gross motor activities at forest school and look forward to using some of our new equipment in our outdoor area to develop this including our rope and pulley system, digging in the mud and sand boxes and stirring in the mud kitchen/potion areas. We will also be developing our fine motor skills inside and outside the classroom using some of our new equipment including the easels and blackboards.



Reception will take part in SWIMMING sessions at Willowburn this half term.

It is very important that Reception are forming their letters accurately when writing, remembering where to start their letters by using the RWInc rhymes.

Nursery will be practising to write their name regularly this half term and practising forming the letters.

We will also be continuing to focus on healthy eating and the importance of a healthy diet!

PLEASE help your child to be INDEPENDENT by getting dressed themselves, going to the toilet and putting their shoes on. Please let them have a go before helping them!

Reception Literacy

This half term we will be further developing our independence in writing and hope that the children will be writing simple captions and short sentences independently. For those children who are already doing this, we will be challenging them to develop this into 3 or 4 sentences and begin to include narrative features in their writing such as 'once upon a time', 'one sunny day', 'a long time ago' and 'in the end'. It is vital that the children are now reading and writing confidently using the Set 1 sounds (all individual sound and qu, ch, sh, th, nk, ng). Those that are still struggling to read and write CVC word (cat, map, dog, zip, win) will be taking part in daily interventions through fun activities, on top of RWInc. All of the children will be learning RWInc Set 2 sound this half term, starting with the ay, ee, igh, ow, oo sounds. For those children who have already learnt these sounds, we will be revising these to make sure we are applying them accurately in our own writing and then moving on to learn the sounds oo (pronounced u), ar, or, air, ir, ou, oy sounds. We will continue to develop our recognition and application of the tricky red words and ask that you support your child with these by pointing them out in shared books, reading books and by reading the red words included in their folders daily when reading their school book. Remember you have the list of 45 high frequency words which the children are expected to read and write by the end of Reception, many of these are 'red words' which can't be sounded out.

We will be developing our 'Talk 4 Writing' skills this half term by linking lots of what we do to our focus text 'Dear Dinosaur'. We will be learning to retell this story by creating story maps, learning actions and taking part in lots of fun activities relating to the text. We will further develop our understanding of non fiction texts and will learn facts about Dinosaurs. We hope to develop our understanding of writing for different purposes and work towards writing our own letter to a Dinosaur along with instructions of how to look after a Dinosaur egg! We will be inventing our own stories and acting them out on our new stage, talking about how the end of a familiar story could change and identifying alliteration in stories as well as making up our own alliteration names for Dinosaurs!

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will be continuing to focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes and altering them to fit with our Dinosaur topic! We will be sharing our focus text of 'Dear Dinosaur' as we take part in many activities linked to the story and we will retell the story and put actions to it. We will share non fiction texts about Dinosaurs and learn some basic facts as well as extending our vocabulary around the topic.

We will be focusing on writing our names this half term, this is an important target for those Nursery children who will be starting Reception in September. We will be using the RWInc rhymes (given out at parent workshop) to help the children to recognise and form the letter accurately as we begin to learn some of our Set 1 RWInc sounds, starting with ma,s,d,t,i (please support us from home by saying the pure sound - you can find out more about this in the power point I used at the parent workshop available on our school website, alternatively feel free to ask me as this is really important).

This half term we will be continuing to develop confident mark makers, using a variety of resources. We will also be promoting drawing and painting and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.

We will also be playing lots of listening games and continuing with phase 1 phonics, focusing on rhythm, rhyme and alliteration.

Reception Maths

Maths happens naturally and spontaneously all day in Early Years. Maths is covered in all areas of the provision and is enhanced and developed through carefully planned interactions with skilled adults. In Reception the children take part in short daily Maths sessions to learn key skills which they can then apply independently in the provision.

This term in Maths the children will focus on:

Securing a deeper understanding of numbers to 10 - ordering in confidence, identifying 1 more and 1 less, finding a missing number and understanding which numbers are larger and smaller.

Recognise numbers beyond 10 and understand that they are 10 and some more.

Adding and subtracting 2 single digit numbers by initially counting 2 groups of objects together and then by counting on or back (eg - $5 + 3$, the children would count on starting at 5...6,7,8). We will be focusing lots on subtraction this half term.

Select, name and talk about the properties of 3D shapes (flat faces, curved faces, edges) and use them to construct models and patterns (cube, cuboid, sphere, cone, cylinder, pyramid).



Recap everyday language related to time and begin to measure small amounts of time in simple ways.

Ways to help at home - Point out numbers, practise recognition of numbers, count EVERYTHING, use mathematical language like 'would you like 1 more sausage on your plate? How many have you had now?' Practise counting forwards and backwards from any number eg - 4...5,6,7,8 or 8...7,6,5,4...

Talk about the shape of things you see when you are out and about, model using the language of time - tomorrow, yesterday, in 10 minutes, on Saturday....

Nursery Maths

Maths happens naturally and spontaneously all day in Early Years. Maths is covered in all areas of the provision and is enhanced and developed through planned interactions with adults in the classroom to support the children to meet their next steps.



Where is the giraffe?

This term Nursery will also take part in regular, short 10 minute Maths sessions to develop their Mathematical vocabulary and develop their basic Maths skills including -

Reciting numbers in order to 10, counting up to 5 objects accurately, recognising numbers to 5 and matching to a quantity, using positional language, recognising 2D shapes and using the basic language of time.

Ways to help at home - singing number songs that go forwards eg - '1,2,3,4,5... once I caught a fish alive', playing games with numbers such as snap, bingo and matching games, counting everything - steps, flowers, sausages on your plate....

SRE This half term we will be thinking about 'Myself and Others'. We will be thinking about how we identify our feelings and how we express them, to realise our behaviour can affect other people and to understand how feelings can influence friendships.



RE We cover RE often throughout our learning in Early Years. This half term Reception will take part in weekly RE session to continue to develop our understanding of Christianity and will focus on 'God'. We will continue to think about how Christians see God as a loving special friend and develop this further by thinking about what it means to worship. We will think about and come up with our own 'Thank you prayers to God'. We will also develop our understanding of the Easter story and how we thank God for giving us new life. We will learn about and take part in Christian celebrations linked to Easter.

We also look to continuously celebrate different traditions, cultures and special times within our own families and other cultures. This half term we will continue to talk about celebrations which we have covered in past half terms such as Eid, Diwali and Chinese New Years.

We will continue to work closely with our Church, St Bartholomew's this half term and will continue to visit this to help us understand what we are learning about in RE.

We also hope to re connect with our friends at Wingrove Primary School in Newcastle this half term by writing to them, to invite them to an Easter Egg hunt and to show them around our own Church!

We invite you to **celebrate Easter with us in EYFS on Friday 5th April** in our 'Easter' themed Stay and Play session open to parents, carers, babies and toddlers from our community.



Understanding the World

This term we will be focusing on:

Discussing similarities and differences in habitats and Dinosaurs as well as comparing these to our world now and animals that live now.

Show care and concern for living things, thinking about how we can look after our world. We will talk lots about how human activity influences the environment (littering etc).

Thinking about different animals and writing our own stories.

Learning about different Dinosaurs and thinking about things that they eat.

Develop our understanding of how materials change by using our messy play areas and by making pancakes.

Developing a basic understanding of how things were different a very long time ago.

Notice differences in our environment as Spring arrives.

Developing our understanding of what technology we need for different purposes (laptops, Ipads, Cameras, phones etc).

Using technology to research Dinosaurs.



Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Continue to develop our understanding of primary and secondary colours.

Make up and act out our own stories.

Use our new stage area to experiment with dancing, singing, using musical instruments and acting/role play.

Combine different materials to create new effects.

Build stories around toys.

Move in different ways, linked to our Dinosaur topic.

Role play in our new play house and develop our expression of ideas in our new mark making areas.

