

Early Years

We hope you have enjoyed your holidays and the children are feeling refreshed and ready for lots of learning!

Here are just a few reminders and dates for this half term.

- Just a reminder of PE days - Reception PE is on a Tuesday and Nursery PE is on a Wednesday morning.
- We are currently working towards making Tapestry (our online learning journal) accessible to parents, once we have done this we will arrange a time in which you can familiarise yourself with Tapestry and we can introduce it to you.
- As part of our growing and life cycles topic, the children will be going to visit a local farm. More information will be sent out closer to the time, but the trip will be on Monday 20th March 2017.
- Please remember it is school policy that children only bring water in their bottles to school.
- This term the Stay and Play session will take place on Monday 13th March. This is open to all parent's of Early Years age children (up to 5years old). We welcome parent's and children who do not attend Whittingham, so please spread the word!

If you have technology available at home please can we remind you to support your children to use School360. The children use this every day to register with their Avatar and the children find it difficult to identify their Avatar when they have not used their points to personalise it. There is also lots of fun games and learning opportunities on School360 (It even works on a smartphone!)

If you have lost your child's log in details, which were sent out in Autumn term, please speak to a member of the Early Years team.

Many Thanks- The Early Years Team Miss Todd, Miss Dick and Mrs Chisholm

As always if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate in speaking to one of us.



Growing and life cycles

This term in Personal, Social and Emotional Development the children will be learning to:

- We will be promoting good relationships within our class and expect the children to play with a range of children and initiate conversations with them.
- Resolve our own conflicts more independently.
- Share our knowledge and ask questions to other children.
- Take account of other children or adults opinions and ideas.
- We will be able to describe ourselves in a positive way and share our own desires and opinions.
- Adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride.
- Become more confident in the classroom.

In Expressive Art and Design this term the children will have the opportunity to:

- Investigate mixing colours and identifying primary and secondary colours.
- Mark make throughout all areas of our environment and topic.
- Learn new songs and dances and use instruments to accompany these, thinking about rhythm.
- Introduce storylines and narratives when playing with other children who are using the home kitchen area or the garden centre role play area.
- Build stories around toys and use available resources to create props to support their role play, we will be promoting more independence in this area.
- To use beans and seeds to create shakers and explore music and different sounds.
- Move to different music, imitating the life cycle of a butterfly.

In Physical Development this term the children will be:

- Reception will be developing their skills through Dance lessons in their P.E sessions.
- Nursery will be developing a variety of skills including - moving safely, throwing and catching, balancing and moving over and under things by taking part in PE games that promote cooperation, good listening, turn taking and team work.
- Developing their fine motor and gross motor skills through Dough Disco.
- Developing their gross motor skills by using our outdoor environment enabling us to climb and explore.
- Becoming aware of the effect that exercise has on their body, how they feel and how it helps them to keep healthy.
- Learning about a healthy diet, what this is and the effect it has on our body (fruit and vegetables in our growing topic).
- Nursery will continue to write their names and we will promote more independence of this.
- We will continue to be promoting independence through out the school day. Especially with regards to dressing and undressing for PE and putting our coats on ourselves (using our superman method!).
- Enjoying cars and bikes to enhance their gross motor skills and coordination.
- Continuously engaging in topic related fine motor activities and sensory explorations.

In Literacy this term:

- Reception will continuing with Read Write Inc phonics daily, to help them to continue to learn new letter sounds and use these to support both their reading and writing.
- Nursery will take part in daily early phonics and we will be concentrating on the correct formation of the sounds they learn.
- Reception will continue to take home their reading book this half term, and their high frequency words to learn.
- Children will be given continuous opportunities to mark make and develop pencil control and give meaning to their drawings, paintings and writing.
- Children will have focused and independent opportunities to develop their writing through out the topic.
- The children will be enhancing their speaking and listening during role play in our home area, during snack time, circle time and when learning about our topic.
- We will be focusing on particular story books such as 'Jaspers Beanstalk', 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and will be working on identifying the key events in a story. The children will be learning to predict what might happen at the end of a story or what could happen differently.
- We will be using non fiction books to help us learn about the life cycles of different animals.
- We will be promoting story telling and story writing through activities such as story paths, story maps and story scribing. We hope this will help the Reception children to begin to write their own stories.
- Nursery will be recognising logo's that are familiar to them in the classroom, in books and around school.
- We will be promoting the children's imagination, for example - if you planted a magic seed, what would your plant look like?

This term within mathematics the children will be taking part in:

- Number songs relating to the growing topic.
 - Sequencing and using the language of time in relation to life cycles, for example — first, next, then.
 - During our growth topic, children will be measuring plants and the cress that they grow. We will be promoting more independent measuring and language of size.
 - Ordering things in relation to size, for example - ordering flowers or beanstalks by height.
 - Daily counting/number recognition (1-50).
 - Ordering numbers.
 - Nursery will take part in daily number time with counting croc to develop number recognition and counting.
 - Mathematical language which will be continuously used and promoted during children's independent play.
 - Learning days of the week, months and seasons during our calendar each morning.
 - Comparing groups of objects, identifying which has more and when there is the same amount.
 - Matching the quantity to numerals or spoken numbers (particular emphasis on nursery, can you give me 3 toys? etc).
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- Reception will be covering the following areas in their Maths lessons this half term - comparing teen numbers and remembering that they are 10 and some more, learn and compare the value of coins, writing number sentences for one more/one less and match these to addition and subtraction, recognising o clock times on analogue and digital clocks, learning left and right and using these with positional language, partitioning numbers and number bonds to 5 and 10 and matching objects to number sentences.
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- There will also be a strong emphasis on correct number formation, especially in Reception.

In Communication and Language this term children will be:

- Developing our listening skills and using these to follow two part instructions.
- Continue to sing songs and nursery rhymes, becoming more confident as a group and as individuals.
- Using past, present and future events when talking about their own experiences.
- Using two channelled attention, listening and 'doing' at the same time.
- Listening to a variety of stories with increasing attention.
- The children will be using 'why' and 'how' questions as we learn about how things grow and life cycles.
- Can organise their thoughts and share their experiences and ideas clearly, using sentences.
- Working on following instructions quickly.
- Listening to their friends opinions and ideas and replying to these.
- Continuing to use vocabulary to effectively communicate needs to adults and their friends.

In Understanding The World children will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about how a plant grows and what it needs.
 - Grow their own cress and observe how it changes and grows.
 - Investigate different parts of a plant and know what they are called.
 - Learn about the life cycle of animals such as lambs (farm visit), chicks, frogs and butterflies.
 - Think about where their food comes from.
 - Learn about healthy food and why it is important to eat healthy things.
 - Use technology to complete simple programmes such as watering a plant and watching it grow.
 - Use the laptops to access school360, play games and edit their Avatars.
 - Use 2simple to draw and record what they have learnt, for example - drawing the life cycle of a butterfly.
 - The children will learn about Easter and celebrate this in school.
 - They will consider the season of spring and the changes we see during this season.
 - Show care and concern for living things and think about how we can be considerate to them (think about how we can care for the school chicks — what do they need?)
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- We hope to have an incubator and eggs in school so that the children can observe chicks hatching. Allowing the opportunity to draw/write about what they notice and the changes they see each day.