

Early Years Topic Letter

Autumn 1

Welcome back and I hope you have had a fantastic holiday. This half term we welcome some new starters into Early Years and I can't wait to get to know them!

Gentle reminders:

Please remember, if your child is in Reception, they will attend Willowburn every Monday afternoon for specialist PE sessions. Please send your child to school in their PE kit, with a hoody and sweatpants where possible. The children will stay in their PE kit all day and do not need their uniform on Mondays.

Reception children will begin to take home a reading book. Please make every effort to read with your child as often as possible. I cannot emphasise enough the difference that this makes! Not only are they reading more but it shows your children the importance you place on reading.

This half term we will be visiting Morwick ice cream parlour, on a trip, to enhance our topic. More information will follow shortly.

Please remember a WATERPROOF COAT at all times, we go out in all weathers so a hat, scarf and gloves will be needed when the weather begins to get colder.

Please make sure ALL belongings are named, including PE kits.



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 on Early Years. This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Settling into the classroom and leaving our adults with confidence.

Making up, following and understanding the class rules.

Being kind and making new friends.

Using and accessing resources with support and then independently.



We will use our focus text 'The Little Red Hen' to think closely about how we make others feel, our own feelings and why it is important to be kind and helpful to other people.

Communication and Language

This half term we will be focusing on:

Following simple instructions in Nursery and more complex instructions, with two parts, in Reception.

Singing and learning lots of familiar and new nursery rhymes.

Putting actions to nursery rhymes and stories, including The Little Red Hen.

Developing our vocabulary when talking about stories and characters.

Using more complex sentences to link our ideas and thoughts.

Physical Development

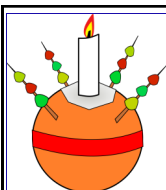
This half term we will continue with our dough disco and yoga session each morning to help to develop our core strength and balance along with our fine motor skills.

We will continue to promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running and squatting outdoors and at forest school.

We will be taking part in lots of fine motor activities which will help to develop the strength in our fingers, and support us to hold a pencil effectively. These will include things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking and using tweezers.

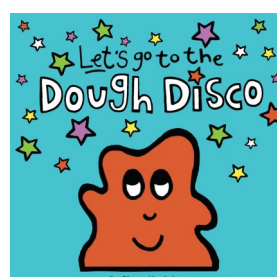
Reception will take part in multi skills sessions at Willowburn this half term.

We will be placing a huge emphasis on independence this half term. We will support the children to become independent at going to the toilet, washing their hands and putting their coat on to go outside. Please help us by allowing your child to dress themselves, put on their own shoes and begin to become more independent at home (Shoes without laces are much easier for little hands!)



RE This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions to understand Christianity and will focus on 'God'.

Reception and Nursery will talk about special times, take part in special worships and learn about special festivals such as Harvest festival and the Christingle, where we will go to Church. We will also learn about and celebrate Diwali.



The Little Red Hen

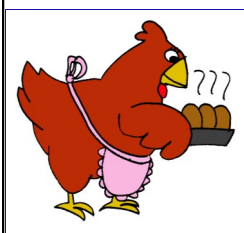
Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will be focusing on learning our RWInc set 1 sounds through short and snappy 'speed sounds' sessions each morning, designed to teach the children to recognise and pronounce the pure sounds, before reading them in simple CVC words such as 'cat, top, sit'.

We will be applying these sounds through carefully planned activities and play situations where we will promote and model different purposes for writing (making lists, writing in our mud kitchen, making plans in the construction area etc.).

It is important as the children pick up the Read, Write, Inc sounds that they practise forming these accurately, starting in the correct place. This will further help your child to write their name accurately, another area we will be placing lots of emphasis on this half term.

We will also continue to develop our recognition of rhyming and alliteration through fun games, songs and rhymes. It is vital that the children develop their sound discrimination skills before they can become fluent readers.



We will be developing our 'Talk 4 Writing' skills this half term by introducing our first focus text - The Little Red Hen. 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 (including making bread!)

By the end of this half term, all Reception children will be taking home a reading book. Initially, these will be picture books. Please support your child to tell the story and talk about the pictures by asking them questions. This helps to develop their understanding and comprehension skills and they will not be given a book with words in until they are confident doing this.



Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will be focusing on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus text of 'Little Red Hen' as we take part in many activities linked to the story we will retell the story and put actions to it.

We will be working on recognition of familiar logos and our names this half term. This is something you can help with at home by pointing logos that mean something to your child (John Deere, Tesco, Macdonald's, Disney, Cbeebies etc) and their name.

This half term we will be placing our emphasis on creating confident mark makers, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.



Reception Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision but as the children move into Reception they also take part in short directed Maths activities. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.

This term in Maths the children will focus on:

Counting reliably with numbers from 1 - 5 and then 1 - 10, counting beyond 5 objects accurately and beginning to count objects which cannot be moved, accurately counting an irregular arrangement of up to 5 objects.

Recognising 2D shapes, naming them and talking about their properties.



Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Explore a variety of different textures and sensory experiences to promote rich language and develop mark making.

Join in with dancing and singing, adding actions.

Explore open ended resources and use construction materials to build and make things (including natural resources at forest school).

Develop their ability to use simple tools and techniques to alter materials in the craft area.

Use particular colours for a purpose and give meaning to their marks.

Make a variety of artwork linked to our topic, including collage pictures and paintings of animals.

Understanding the World

This term we will be:

Developing our friendships and talking about special people in our lives.

Learning about the process of growing wheat and making flour. Grinding our own flour and baking our own bread on the open fire at forest school... and eating it! Mmmm!



Learning about how our food is grown, linking to the harvest festival and thinking about our community, other communities and the special things we do with our families.

Thinking about how other food is made and visiting Morwick ice cream parlour to see how the milk gets from cow to cone!

Using Little Hen beebots and Ipads to play games.

Nursery Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, at snack time and while the children play. Before the day has even started we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using numicon. Nursery children develop a concrete understanding of number and shape through carefully questions and skilled interactions through their play. This half term, their will be particular focus on the following:

Recalling, in order, numbers from 1 - 10 through songs and rhymes.



Counting objects accurately by touching each object as they say the number name (up to 3 objects).

Sorting objects in different ways.

Beginning to use everyday language related to size when playing (big, tall, tiny).

SRE As part of our statutory SRE curriculum this half term we will be thinking about body awareness.