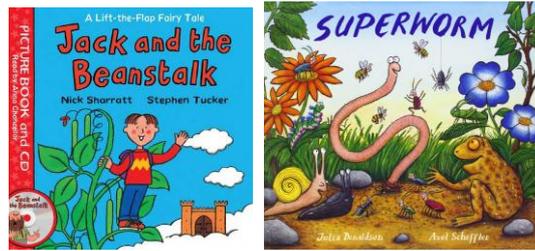


Early Years Topic Letter -Summer 1 2025

Our topic this half term is - We love being outdoors!



Welcome back, I hope you have all had a well rested Easter holiday with your families. As always I am looking forward to hearing about what everyone has been up to.

Gentle reminders:

Drop off for all children is 8.45am, pick up is 3.15pm or 11.45am if your child goes home before lunch.

Please ensure your child has a change of clothing in school in case we need them. If your child is in nappies, please provide nappies/pull ups, wipes and nappy bags. Children in Early Years should **only** bring a book bag reading folder to school as our cloakroom and storage space is very small! I am happy for changes of clothes to be left on the children's pegs either in a carrier bag or a drawstring style bag as these do not take up too much space.

Please always remember a waterproof coat, as the weather warms up (fingers crossed) please also remember a sun cap etc as necessary. Water bottles are also essential please.

Our Forest School session will continue to be on a Monday afternoon and our PE session on a Thursday afternoon. Please can your child come to school dressed in their PE kit on Monday and Thursday, on a Monday they **MUST** have trousers on - health and safety for Forest School. If there are ever any changes to this, I will notify you on tapestry.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £1 per child each half term to help with the cooking station costs - a message with more information was sent out on tapestry.

Please can your child come into school with a spare pair of shoes or trainers - like the older children do to prevent the grass and stones from the field and running track coming indoors.

As ever if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, I am always available at drop off or pick up times.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 1st May - Class photographs - full school uniform please

Monday 5th May - School closed - Bank Holiday

Monday 12th May - Babes in the wood stay and play forest school session

Friday 23rd May - Break up for May half term

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will reinforce positive behaviour at all times in EYFS. Supporting the children to develop their personal, social and emotional development is at the core of what we do in every way.

This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Friendships

Dreams and Goals

Showing resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge

Discussing why we take turns, wait politely, tidy up after ourselves and so on.

Physical Development



This half term 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, dough disco and using tweezers.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation and trying to sit our letters on the line. In Nursery, we will continue to work on writing our names.

In our P.E sessions the focus will be games.



This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our focus this term is Multi faith comparative units - What times/stories are special and why?

What places are special and why?

Festivals and celebrations.

Communication and Language



This half term we will be focusing on:

Taking turns to talk during circle and group times

Taking each other's ideas on board and work together

Talking in groups and to the whole class



Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will continue to consolidate RWInc set 1 and 2 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 words such as 'chick, dirt, snow, bush' please support us and continue to practise sounds at home daily, particularly the ones you find your child is finding tricky, alongside the texts that are also sent home that match your child's RWInc session in school. We recommend sharing these at least three times to consolidate previous learning and build confidence and reading with expression as well as building comprehension skills. Little and often is key and really does make a BIG difference. If you can pop a little note in your child's reading record with what you have done and how they have got on, this is a good way to communicate between home and school as well as tapestry.

We will also continue to introduce new red words this half term as they appear in the books that your child is reading. These words are words that cannot be sounded out and they just need to be learnt by sight.

We will continue to send a 'reading for pleasure' book home each week - please keep this at home and return to school on a Thursday - when we will change them. These books along with books you have at home are a great way to share how stories are structured so that your child becomes used to and can possibly join in with repeated refrains, please take the opportunity for your child to listen to you reading the story, create their own retelling of the story and talk about the characters and settings and the characters feelings.

We will be developing our writing skills this half term so that children can label pictures and write for various purposes writing in sentences. It is very important as children pick up the sounds in Read, Write, Inc that they practise forming them correctly, starting in the correct place. We will write such things as -

A Plant diary/record

Retelling a story in own words /Write new version

Writing a postcard / diary writing

My Holiday - recount

Writing recipes, lists. Writing for a purpose in role play using phonetically plausible attempts at words, beginning to use finger spaces. Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.

Story writing, writing sentences using a range of tricky words that are spelt correctly. Beginning to use full stops, capital letters and finger spaces. Innovation of familiar texts Using familiar texts as a model for writing own stories. Character description - the Giant from Jack and the Beanstalk.

Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, speech bubble, character description, adjective, retell, capital letter, lower case letter, full stop, sentence, diary, recount.

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will work on writing our names and developing our mark making skills.

This half term we will be placing our emphasis on creating confident mark maker's, 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 take part in 'Squiggle While you Wiggle' sessions to help us to develop our early writing skills in an energetic and fun way.

We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.

We will take part in short daily phase one phonics sessions which will help us to develop our sound discrimination and listening skills. This half term we will be focussing on voice sounds and beginning to hear words when orally blended e.g. teachers says p-e-n - child says 'pen'

Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, rhyme, sound, first and last sounds, blending.



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 we also take part in a short, directed Maths activity each day. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.

Nursery Maths

This half term we will focus on:

Comparing quantities and matching quantities

Talking about more and fewer

Continuing to recognise numerals

Compare size and length

Key vocabulary: How many? Numicon, number, match, same, more, fewer, smaller, bigger, less than, more than, size, length, big, small, shorter, longer, taller, bigger, smaller.

Expressive, Art and Design



This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Junk model - creating their own designs

Retell familiar stories

Life cycles of animals

Paint and draw flowers such as Sun flowers

Complete artwork themed around buildings or landmarks linked to our comparison of a city -

Newcastle to a village - Whittingham.

Key vocabulary: junk model, pastel, tools, pastels, cut, stick, materials, join, attach, paint, sketch, draw, create, retell, life cycle, artist.

Reception Maths

This half term we will focus on:

Numbers to 20 and beyond

Counting to 20, adding more and taking away

Key vocabulary: Compare, order, number, quantity, bigger, smaller, add, plus, combine, total, equals, altogether, subtract, take away, minus, number bonds, tens, ones, tens frame, part whole model, part, whole.

Understanding the World



This term we will be:

Using the Forest School area (to link with seasons); discuss what we will see.

Using Handa's Surprise to explore a different country.

Discussing how we get to school and what mode of transport we use.

Looking at the difference between transport in this country and one other country. Encouraging the children to make simple comparisons.

Looking at environments - Features of our local environment and maps of our local area, comparing places on Google Earth - how are they similar/different?

Looking at the differences between a city - Newcastle and a village - Whittingham.

Key vocabulary: animals, habitats, season, changes, same, different, environment, habitat, country, world.