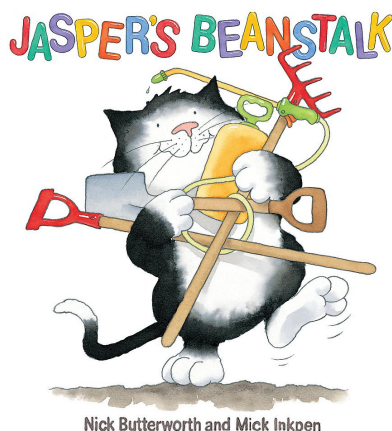


Early Years Topic Letter – Spring 2

COME OUTSIDE!



Welcome back to what looks like another busy term and we welcome Miss Dick back as she returns from maternity leave. Miss Dick will be working Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Marsden Thursday and Friday. As always we are contactable via tapestry and the office with any queries you may have.

We hope you have all had a wonderful half term holiday, we can't wait to hear all about it.

This half term's topic is 'Come outside!', so some of the stories and texts we will be focusing our learning around are – 'Errol's Garden' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk' alongside many other texts about plants and growing such as 'the tiny seed' and 'Jack and the beanstalk'.

Gentle reminders:

Please continue to support us for a smooth start to the day, drop off for all children is 8.45am (prompt please as this allows our day to run smoothly, so we can settle children into their new routines.) Pick up is 3.15pm or 12noon if your child goes home after lunch. Please remember not to come onto school site until the buses have left the front, this is for your and your child's safety and we continue to ask you to wear a face covering on school site please.

Please remember a waterproof coat at all times, we go out in all weathers! Water bottles and spare clothes in your child's bag are also essential please as we are unable to use school spare clothing. Please make sure every item of clothing and water bottle is clearly marked with your child's name. This makes it easier for us to make sure items are not lost and are reunited with their owner quickly.

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. For reception children reading at home and practising our RWI sounds remains the main focus. Reading at home really does make a BIG difference, please try and read with your child daily. Please do write in your child's reading record when you practise these things at home and make any notes, this is really useful for us to see how you are getting on at home.

Change of PE days – now to be a **Wednesday and Friday** as this is when the rugby coaches are coming in as well as other activities – so please come to school on these days dressed in PE kit and trainers.

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:

Relationships

What makes a good friend?

Healthy me

Random acts of Kindness

Looking after pets

Looking After our Planet

Physical Development

This half term we will be continuing to develop our independence! We will be working on putting our own shoes or wellies on, going to the toilet, identifying when we need our nappy changes, putting our coat on, peeling our fruit and putting our straw in our milk! You can help at home by supporting your child to get dressed by themselves and have a go at putting their coat on before you help them. You can also support them to wash their hands.

We will also be working hard to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills. We will be doing this through our dough disco and 'squiggle while you wiggle' sessions as well as daily name writing for nursery and writing challenges in reception.

We will promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running, throwing and catching through physical activities and

<p>We will give children strategies for staying calm in the face of frustration. Talk them through why we take turns, wait politely, tidy up after ourselves and so on.</p>	<p>when using our climbing frame and the cars and bikes. We will also be doing rugby as part of our PE sessions on a Wednesday afternoon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation, composing sentences including capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. In Nursery, if we are ready we will also be working hard to write our names.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RE</u></p> <p>This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our main focus this term will continue to be Christianity and God, we will also look at festivals and celebrations.</p> <p>We will be learning: To understand that some people worship different Gods.</p> <p>To know what worship is.</p> <p>To have an awareness of ways that we can worship.</p> <p>To be able to recall some of a story about God.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Communication and Language</u></p> <p>We develop the children's listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all of the time and often based on your child's next steps as the children often have specific areas to work on. This half term we will be focusing on:</p> <p>Sharing our focus texts 'Eroll's Garden' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk', as well as lots of other texts.</p> <p>Singing and learning lots of new and familiar nursery rhymes daily and within our music lessons. Having two channelled attention, being able to listen and 'do' at the same time. Reception children will be focusing on: CVC blending and segmenting, writing captions and ditty work.</p> <p>Looking closely at 'special friends' and 'digraphs'.</p> <p>Continuing to consolidate all the set 1 and 2 sounds we have learned. We will not be learning any new sounds now until the children go into Year One. We will spend the remaining time going back and consolidating to ensure that children are confident in blending them in their reading and segmenting in their writing.</p> <p>Learning our tricky red words.</p>

Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception will continue to consolidate all the sounds they have learned (set 1 and set 2) in snappy 'speed sounds' sessions each morning. We will continue to send books home. Please support us and practise these at home, 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. I do check each child's home reading record every day.

We will also continue to introduce new red words this half term such as 'my' 'me' etc. These words are words that cannot be sounded out and they just need to be learnt by sight. Again those we have looked at in school will be sent home in your child's wallet.

We will be developing our writing skills this half term so that children can continue to label pictures and write for various purposes using initial sounds and single words. 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, this is why the corresponding RWI rhymes are useful and important.

We will be Writing some of the tricky words such as I, me, my, like, to, the. Writing CVC words, Labels using CVC, CVCC, CCVC words. We will be developing short sentences in a meaningful context. Creating own story maps, writing captions and labels, writing simple sentences. Writing short sentences to accompany story maps.

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus texts of 'Errol's Garden' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk' as we take part in many activities linked to the stories and we will learn to retell the stories and put actions to them.

We will work on having a go at 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 body percussion and rhythm and rhyme.

Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, rhyme.

Body Percussion



Clap



Snap



Pat



Stomp

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 and on tens frames.

This half term we will focus on:

Using positional language

Continue to develop language related to time

Recognising and naming 2D shapes

Recognising and naming numerals in the environment, matching quantities to numerals.

Key vocabulary: under, next to, on top, behind, under, first, next, later, triangle, square, circle, rectangle, number, how many.

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

This half term we will focus on:

Numbers 9 and 10

Number bonds to 10 using part whole and tens frames

Spatial awareness and shape

Key vocabulary: same, different, more, less, bigger, smaller, equal, add, addition, plus, number, amount, quantity, number bonds, part whole model, under, over, behind, next to, in front of, on top, 3D shapes, 2D shapes, sides, edges, faces, corners.

Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Make different textures; make patterns using different colours.

Children will explore ways to protect the growing of plants by designing scarecrows.

Collage-farm animals / Making houses. Pastel drawings, printing, patterns on Easter eggs, Life cycles, Flowers-Sun flowers.

Mother's Day and Easter crafts.

Artwork themed around Eric Carle / The Seasons – Art.

Understanding the World

This term we will be:

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

Look further at recycling and how it can take care of our world. Look at what rubbish can do to our environment and animals. Create opportunities to discuss how we care for the natural world around us.

Making comments on the weather, culture, clothing, housing.

Observing change in living things – Changes in the leaves, weather, seasons.

<p>Key vocabulary: texture, pattern, colours, mix, design, create, collage, sketch, draw, paint, join.</p>	<p>Exploring the world around us and see how it changes as we enter Summer. Provide opportunities for children to note and record the weather.</p> <p>Building a 'Bug Hotel'</p> <p>Drawing children's attention to the immediate environment, introducing and modelling new vocabulary where appropriate.</p> <p>Encourage interactions with the outdoors to foster curiosity and give children freedom to touch, smell and hear the natural world around them during hands-on experiences.</p> <p>Look for children incorporating their understanding of the seasons and weather in their play.</p> <p>Key vocabulary: environment, change, same, different, season, Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer, weather, rain, snow, wind, sun, hail, recycling, environment.</p>
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