

Early Years Topic Letter

Spring 1

Welcome back and I hope you have had a fantastic holiday break!

Gentle reminders:

Willowburn will continue on a Monday for Reception children and we will continue with PE sessions for the next half term (Gymnastics).

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

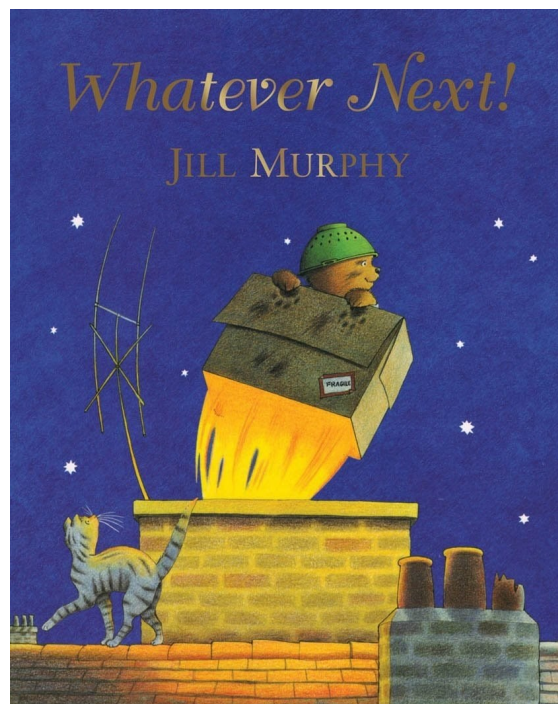
Please make sure every item of clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

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!

Dates for the diary

Chinese New Year themed Stay and Play - Monday 4th February - 9—10am.

Early Years Introduction to Phonics workshop (please come along if you did not attend last year or would like to know more about how we teach your children to read and write) - Thursday 24th January - 3:30—4:30pm.



Up, Up and Away!

Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will continue to focus on securing our RWInc Set 1 sounds and make sure that everyone is applying these accurately in their writing. We will be learning RWInc Set 2 sound this half term, starting with the 'ay, ee, igh, ow, oo' sounds. We will be focusing on making sure that all children are confidently blending and writing cvc words this half term, those that aren't will get additional daily input to help them to secure this. This half term we will be learning many more red words, and we hope that the children will start to use these in their writing (I, the, go, me, my, to) independently as they begin to write short captions and basic sentences. 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 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 linking lots of what we do to our focus text 'Whatever Next'. 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 also look closely at Non fiction texts and learn facts about Space that we can all retell by the end of the topic. The children will be writing plans, a list of things to take to Space and a letter from space.

We hope that the children will become more independent in their writing this half term and choose to write for a purpose. You can help with this at home by modelling writing for a purpose. Let the children see you are writing a reminder to someone on a post it note, a shopping list or adding a date in your diary.

Please continue to support your child by reading with them daily and looking at their RWInc sounds, green words and red words in their folder.

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will be continuing to focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus text of 'Whatever Next' 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 Space 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 for the oldest Nursery children.

This half term we will be continuing to place 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.

We will also be playing lots of listening games and introducing Phase 1 phonics activities focusing on rhyming.

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:

Having the confidence to share our knowledge and understanding, following rules and expectations, describing ourselves in a positive way and talking about our abilities, accessing resources independently and enjoy carrying out small tasks and jobs.

We will also welcome some new friends this half term and therefore a big emphasis will be placed on friendships, helping them to settle in and sharing our routines.

Reception will begin to be challenged with 'Rainbow Challenges' this half term developing independence.

Communication and Language

This half term we will be focusing on:

Learning new language and topic specific vocabulary and using this when retelling facts.

Learning space themed stories including 'whatever next' off by heart and retelling/making up our own stories.

Anticipating what is going to happen next in a story.

Promote 'why' and 'how' questions.

Switching our attention when we are busy.

RE This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions to understand Christianity and will focus on 'God'. We will think about how Christians see God as a loving special friend, what we need to keep us healthy and alive, why people are grateful to God, to understand some people worship a different God and to think about what worship means.

Reception and Nursery will also talk about special times, take part in special worships and celebrate Chinese New Year. Please join us for our special themed Stay and Play on Monday 4th February.

Physical Development

This half term we will continue with our dough disco sessions 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 along with 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 Gymnastic sessions at Willowburn this half term.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focusing on accurate letter formation in our name and other writing.

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

We will be involved in lots of large scale construction and junk modelling this half term and will focus on developing our ability to use a variety of tools, balancing and building things with control. We will also think about safety precautions when using tools or playing outdoors.

By now, the children should be much more independent. Please help by allowing your children to put on their own shoes (velcro are much easier than laces) and by supporting them to get dressed by themselves.

We will be thinking about healthy eating and thinking about what we might take in our packed lunch to Space!

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:

Securing our recognition of numbers 1 - 10 and our ability to place them in order, count up to 10 objects which cannot be moved and match quantities to numeral to 10 and beyond. Begin to recognise numbers beyond 10 and understand these numbers as 10 and some more. Identify 1 more and 1 less than a number. Recap addition and focus on subtraction.

Order 2 or 3 items by length, height, weight and capacity.

Name 3D shapes and use these to create patterns and build models.

Use everyday language related to time and sequence familiar events, measuring short periods of time.

Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Investigate mixing colours and begin to look at primary and secondary colours.

Discuss the different properties and uses of materials and focus on junk modelling on a large and small scale.

Develop our own imagination.

Develop our interest in different textures.

Learn songs and stories off by heart and make up our own.

Enjoy using the space themed role play area.

Understanding the World

This term we will be focusing on:

Learn about space including planets and stars.

Learning about different occupations including astronauts.

Investigating different materials and what they are best for when making our own rockets and other junk modelling.

Thinking about similarities and differences between planets and the places we live.

Thinking about other places you can travel to and different forms of transport.

Learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year.

Complete simple programmes on the computer and use technology in our Space themed role play area.

Visit Wingrove and learn about other ways of life and the differences between the places we live.

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 careful questioning and skilled interactions in their play. This half term, there will be particular focus on the following:

Recalling, in order, numbers beyond 10.

Accurately counting up to 5 objects and matching it to numicon pieces.

Recognising Numbers 1 - 5.

Recognising 2D shapes.

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