

Early Years Topic Letter

Summer 1

Welcome back, I hope you had a fantastic Easter Break! I look forward to the weather improving and to welcoming lots of new children to our class this half term.

Gentle reminders:

Willowburn will continue on a Monday (for Reception) and the children will be taking part in **SWIMMING lessons**. The children will need to bring their swimming things in a bag to take to Willowburn but can still continue to come in their sweatpants and PE clothes. A PE hoodie is useful as the children can be cold when they get out of the pool.

Please remember a WATERPROOF COAT at all times in school. As the weather improves, don't forget sun hats! Children can apply their own sun cream, please label this and keep it in their bag.

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!

Please remember to contact the office if there is any change to your child's end of day collection arrangements.

As the weather improves, don't forget sun hats! Children can apply their own sun cream, please label this and keep it in their bag.

We say goodbye to Mrs Dodds this half term as she returns to her busy B&B as we approach the Summer! Good luck, we will miss you!



Muddy Puddles (The Three Little Pigs)

This half term we will focus on Traditional Tales, specifically 'The Three Little Pigs' and then any other traditional tales that the children become interested in.

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. These are reinforced on an hourly basis in Early Years. This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Organising our own activities and talking about what we do and don't like doing, being confident to talk in front of a whole class and to understand bullying and what to do if this happens.

We will also be continuing to focus on taking turns, sharing and thinking about the feelings of our friends. We will also promote our own games and activities and taking turns in these. We will work on listening to our peers and finding a compromise. We also have new starters this half term and we will continue to develop



confidence in settling into the routines and rules of our classroom and promote friendships between the younger and older children. Those children who have now been with us a term will be able to share their experiences and support the new starters.

Communication and Language

This half term we will be focusing on:

Learning 'The 3 Little Pigs' off by heart and learn to retell the story, adding actions. We will talk about and explore the story along with other traditional tales.

Using past, present and future forms accurately.

Using talk to pretend objects are things and developing our imagination during games.

Making up our own stories and tales and use narrative language.

Continuing to develop our listening and attention, sharing stories with no pictures and talking about what we have heard.

Following instructions.



Physical Development

This half term we will be focusing on:

Continuing to promote gross motor and fine motor activities in the forest school areas. We will talk about dangers and how to stay safe.

Continuing to plant things on our outdoor area like lettuce and other vegetables as we think about healthy eating.

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

Nursery will be practising to write their name regularly this half term and practising forming the sounds we learn in RWInc.



Reception will be practising their handwriting daily, working on correct letter formation. For those children who are ready, we will be working on controlling the letter sizes, writing on lines and using ascenders and descenders accurately.

We will be using our new MUGA to play games, find space and practise our throwing and catching skills.

PLEASE help your child to be INDEPENDENT by getting dressed themselves, going to the toilet and putting their shoes on.

Reception Literacy



This half term we will be focusing heavily on making sure the children are writing short sentences independently, and developing the depth of their writing where appropriate. The children will be learning to retell 'The 3 Little Pigs'

as part of our talk for writing topic as well as being exposed to a variety of other traditional tales. We will look closely at what a traditional tale includes and the children will begin to include narrative features in their own stories both verbally and written. All of the children will be continuing to learn RWInc Set 2 sounds this half term along with securing the ones they already know and making sure they are applying these in their reading and writing. We will continue to develop our recognition and application of the tricky red words and ask that you support your child with these by pointing them out in shared books, reading books and by reading the red words included in their folders daily when reading their school book. 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.

When focussing on 'The 3 Little Pigs' we will be drawing story maps, retelling our texts, changing the story as a class and making up our own stories. We will be acting out our stories on the stage outside and promoting independent story writing throughout the half term.

In our writing, we will be remembering to use finger spaces all of the time to help us to read it back more easily. We will try to remember to put full stops at the end of our sentences!

Nursery Literacy

We will be sharing lots of traditional tales this half term, focusing on 'The 3 Little Pigs' and learning to recall the story with actions. We will make story maps as a group, and edit the story to make up our own. We will talk lots about the characters in traditional tales and think about what they have in common. We will enjoy taking part in lots of different activities linked to the story and other traditional tales, including crafts, acting and musical activities.

We will continue to focus on writing our name this half term which is an important target for those Nursery children who will be starting Reception in September. We will be using the RWInc rhymes (given out at parent workshop) to help the children to recognise and form the letter accurately as we continue to secure the Set 1 sounds m,a,s,d,t,i and learn the next new sounds n,p,g,o,c and k. Please support us by practising these sounds in the folders sent home with your child, the children specifically asked to have 'special homework' like Reception and therefore I have sent home the sounds the children have learnt to date. Please remember how important it is to say the PURE sound (ask me if you are unsure or see the information given out at the parents workshop - available on the website). I have also included some rhyming cards in their folder, this will be the focus of our Phase 1 phonics activities this half term.

This half term we will be continuing to develop confident mark makers, using a variety of resources. We will also be promoting drawing and painting and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and marks they have made. When the children are ready, they will begin to label pictures with initial sounds.



Reception Maths

Maths happens naturally and spontaneously all day in Early Years. Maths is covered in all areas of the provision and is enhanced and developed through carefully planned interactions with skilled adults. In Reception the children take part in short daily Maths sessions to learn key skills which they can then apply independently in the provision.

This term in Maths the children will focus on:

Recognising numbers to 20 and understanding that they are made of 10 and some more (teen numbers).

Counting up to 20 objects which cannot be moved.

Counting and adding 2 single digit numbers by counting on or back to find the answer.

To double, half and share fairly.

To estimate the number of objects they can see sensibly and count to check.

For those children who are ready, we will be focussing on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s including counting money, pairs of wellies or socks and groups of 10 objects.

Ways to help at home - Support your child to recognise all numbers to 20 and identify 1 more or 1 less than a number to 20 in practical activities. Practise counting forwards and backwards from any number eg - 4...5,6,7,8 or 8...7,6,5,4....

Count EVERYTHING and make sensible estimations of how many things you think there are going to be. How many peas do you think are on your plate? Hopefully children will estimate something like 20 rather than 5.



Nursery Maths

Maths happens naturally and spontaneously all day in Early Years. Maths is covered in all areas of the provision and is enhanced and developed through planned interactions with adults in the classroom to support the children to meet their next steps.

This term Nursery will also take part in regular, short 10 minute Maths sessions to develop their Mathematical vocabulary and develop their basic Maths skills including -

Recognising 2D shapes, counting objects accurately and matching them to a numeral, comparing size and length of objects and using language related to size (tallest, shortest, largest, smallest). We will also be continuing to focus on recognising numbers to 5 (or 10 for those who are ready).

Ways to help at home - singing number songs that go forwards eg - '1,2,3,4,5... once I caught a fish alive', playing games with numbers such as snap and bingo, counting everything - steps, flowers, sausages on your plate....Recognising shapes in and around your house and going on a shape hunt and talking about the size of things.

SRE This half term we will continue to think about 'Myself and Others' as this is an area the children need further work on. We will be thinking about how we identify our feelings and how we express them, to realise our behaviour can affect other people and to understand how feelings can influence friendships.

RE We cover RE often throughout our learning in Early Years. This half term Reception will finish learning about Easter after we return from the holidays, sharing our experiences and hopefully welcoming children from Wingrove to learn about Easter at our school and Church. We will then move on to learn about Judaism as a different religion and look closely at similarities and differences between celebrations and our own lifestyle and that of those who follow this religion. We will learn about Passover celebrations and some 'Matzah' bread, the special food eaten to celebrate this important time of the year.

We will also look to continuously celebrate different traditions, cultures and special times within our own families and other cultures.

We will continue to work closely with our Church, St Bartholomew's this half term, we have invited our friends from Wingrove Primary School to visit our Church and look forward to hearing if they can visit!



Understanding the World

This term we will be focusing on:

Making observations of animals and plants and understanding why things happen.

Looking for signs of Spring at forest school and during a trip to Alnwick Gardens.



Planting and growing vegetables and thinking about where our food comes from and what it needs to grow.

Consider different materials and their uses and properties when building houses etc, linked to our topic.

To learn about what buildings are made of in different countries, for example mud huts in Africa.

Thinking about what animals are native to different countries and consider what animals would be in a traditional tale set in different countries or habitats.



Learning about how people's lives were different in the past.

Understanding floating and sinking.

Independently using the new Interactive Whiteboard and begin to use laptops to type.

Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Describe and explore different textures when thinking about different materials for building.

Learn about pitch and volume when experimenting with musical instruments.

Junk model on a small and large scale.

Make their own decisions on how things can be altered and think critically when choosing materials for a purpose.

Learn new songs and retell stories.

Act out stories on our stage outside.

Experiment with different resources and techniques when building outdoors at forest school.

