



Reception

Newsletter to parents

Spring Term 2017

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year! Another busy and exciting term lies ahead with plenty of fun and learning in store.

TOPICS

This week, we have really enjoyed hearing all about the children's Christmas celebrations. Thank you for taking the time to put together the Magic Moments - the children were proud to share them with us and they make a lovely addition to their Learning Journeys.

Our topic this half term is entitled **TRANSPORT**.

Week beginning 9.1.17 - Road travel

Week beginning 16.1.17 - Air travel

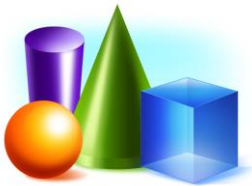
Week beginning 23.1.17 - Water travel

Week beginning 30.1.17 - Rail Travel

Week beginning 6.2.17 - Bikes and scooters



In Maths, we have been thinking of different ways to record information. We have worked together to create a pictogram which represents the number of different coloured cars we have. Each child drew a picture of their family car and we discovered that silver and black cars were particularly popular!



We will also be extending the children's knowledge of shape by looking at the properties of some 3D shapes and looking at the similarities and differences of everyday objects.

Some of the story books we will be looking at include: *Wheels* by Shirley Hughes, *Mr Gumpy's Motor Car* by John Burlingham and *A Balloon for Grandad* by Nigel Gray.

At the end of January, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, tasting food, looking at traditional Chinese clothing, writing and dragon and lion dancing!



Please feel free to allow your child to bring in a **topic related** item to share and discuss with the class. However, as you can imagine we need to give all children the opportunity to share and therefore it may not be possible to look at the item on the day it is brought in. If the item is kept in the child's book bag they will have the opportunity to share during the week. Larger or more precious items can be stored in our cupboard. Please ensure items are named.

NOTICES

Notices will continue to be placed in the classroom window. Please keep a check on this as it will have copies of letters that have been sent out and any other information we have to give you.

Our **Parent Rota** will be placed in the window, please sign up if you are able to pop in for a morning or afternoon (or even for the odd hour). Your help will be greatly appreciated whether you enjoy playing with the children or carrying out some preparation jobs for us (there is plenty to do!). The children will really enjoy your company.

For these one-off sessions, there is no need to complete a Police Check (DBS) form, although if you come in more frequently, you will need to fill out a form (available from the office).

THE MYSTERY READER

Last term we were very lucky to welcome our fabulous mystery readers. Mummies, Daddies, Nannies and Grandads signed up to surprise their child and read to the class. They really enhanced the children's literacy experiences. Thank you for coming in.

A new list will be placed on the classroom window for this term's mystery readers to add their names to.

PE

Mondays - Please could you continue to ensure the children have their PE kits ready - blue shorts and white t-shirt or a leotard. We may also take the children outside for PE and therefore a track-suit (any colour) and trainers will also be necessary. **Please** make sure all your child's clothes are **clearly labelled**, including socks as items of clothing are often identical. For health and safety reasons, long hair should be tied back and ear-rings removed or taped over.

WARM CLOTHING



An important part of The Early Years Curriculum is to provide opportunities for learning in the outdoor environment. We are very keen to promote this within our setting, whatever the weather. Therefore, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing to enable them to enjoy activities outside. Wellington Boots should be kept at school throughout the week so that the children can use them in all weathers.

Please could their hats and gloves, as well as coats, be labelled with their name to minimise loss of belongings.

DRINKS AND SNACK TIME



The children self- snack between 10 and 11 am. They are provided with fruit and vegetables from a government scheme and therefore will not need to bring a snack from home. Named water-bottles can be brought to school, if you have not pre-ordered milk but there is always water available throughout the day. To maintain healthy teeth, it is recommended that drinks bottles contain water rather than juice.

READING AND HOME-LEARNING

We are thrilled with the progress the children are making with their reading - much of this is due to the support they receive at home. Thank you for this and please carry on the good work and don't forget to write in the blue reading diary!

Many children are now at the stage where they are writing or beginning to write words and simple sentences containing the phonemes we have learnt so far. In their Fun with Phonics Home Learning books, please continue to encourage your child to have a go at writing the word independently, rather than copying it. Some may need your help to 'segment' the word but could then record the phonemes they can hear as you segment the word for them. For example: they might write the word 'boat' as 'bot' or the word 'house' may become 'haws'. Some, however, may write just the initial phoneme of the word.

THE MAKING TABLE

This area in the classroom is extremely popular with many children and we are always looking for different resources to enhance our provision. If you have any of the following that you are willing to donate for the children to use, we would be extremely appreciative.

Recycled boxes, tubes, pots

Ribbons

Buttons

Out of date pasta/rice/lentils etc (great for creating different sounds)

Fabric

Wool

Sandpaper

Bubble wrap

String

Envelopes

.....And anything else you can think of!!! 😊

Finally, as mentioned in last term's newsletter, it is important that your child is happy at school and has fun while they are learning. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any concerns. After school is probably the best time to do this.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hind, Mrs Speak and the Reception Team