



Reception

Newsletter to parents

Summer Term 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what is going to be an extremely busy and exciting Summer Term.

Once again, we would like to thank you for providing us with photos and comments about your child's Easter break. They seem to have had a fabulous time! The children have been keen and very proud to share them with us and they have provided a great prompt for some wonderful writing.

TOPICS

At the end of last term, we had a strong focus on Science in Early Years. Exploration and investigation is the key to independent learning and young children love to make their own discoveries. Our Science Day proved to be a big hit with the children and we were amazed at their insightful responses and reasoning behind the outcomes of different experiments.



Last week, we were thrilled to welcome Mrs Storey and Mrs Collings, scientists and Mums to two children in Mrs Mather's class. They set up a fabulous carousel of scientific activities, linked to a story, which the children had to explore in order to help the rabbit get to his supply of carrots. Activities included investigations involving the concepts of floating and sinking, musical sounds, living things and materials and friction. The children were captivated by the different experiences and one child even said: "I thought I was really inside the story!" Wonderful!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Storey and Mrs Collings for enhancing the children's learning in such an informative and fun way.

If any of our parents have a skill or career that the children would be interested to hear about, please do come and talk to us and we would be delighted to arrange for you to visit.

This half term, we continue our topic - PEOPLE WHO HELP US and in the coming weeks we will be focusing on the Emergency Services. This week we have been thinking about the role of the postman/woman and we have enjoyed reading and carrying out activities linked to the book *The Jolly Postman*. The children have been busy wrapping 'parcels', making cards and envelopes, designing stamps and learning how to write a thank you letter. As it is the Queen's 90th birthday this week, we have also been writing invitations to a birthday party. On Wednesday, we



had a visit from Mr Jolley, a real postman, who used puppets and other props to explain his role in an extremely entertaining way. He was really impressed with the children's behaviour and couldn't believe the level of questions they asked about the process of transporting the mail from one place to another. Thank you to Mr Baxter for arranging this for us.

In Maths we have been thinking about addition and are currently working on subtracting single digits. We have also been working hard on number formation and ordering numbers to 20.

After half term our topic will be **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**. As usual, we will take a lead from the children's interests but we will no doubt be learning about minibeasts, wild animals, creatures under the sea and dinosaurs.



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.

THE MYSTERY READER



We would like to invite parents/carers and grandparents to join us in our new Mystery Reader initiative. Would you like to come along and read a story to the class at the end of the school day? If so, please let us know and we will book you in on an afternoon that suits you. You may have your own favourite story (suitable for 4/5 year olds) or you might like to choose one from our book corner. We do ask, however, that you do not tell your child when you are coming in. It will be a wonderful surprise for them on the day, when we announce who the Mystery Reader is.

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** has been 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).

PE - (Mondays)

Please could you continue to ensure the children have their **FULL** kits in their PE bags - blue shorts and white t-shirt as well as a track suit and trainers for outdoor PE sessions. **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.



The Nursery and Reception **Sports Day** will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd June. Both Reception class events will be in the afternoon. We are sure that this will be an enjoyable occasion for all involved and will confirm times at a later date.

GENERAL

As part of the Early Years Curriculum, the children enjoy activities outside in our playground and garden area as much as possible. As the weather turns warmer, could you please ensure that your child has adequate sun screen on, which has been applied before school and brings a named hat to wear every day.



There is always water available for the children to drink. However, it would be helpful if your child could bring in a named water bottle that they can access throughout the day, whether they are inside or outside of the classroom environment.

Just a quick reminder that the children may bring in **one** toy for lunchtime and this **must** be able to fit in their book bag. Please ensure ALL belongings are labelled.



Thank you for your support in listening to the children read at home. We continue to be thrilled with their progress. Please ensure that you comment or initial in the blue reading diary so that we know the book has been read and can be changed. Also, please make sure the books are kept in bookbags. Many

thanks.

SCHOOL TRIP

We are currently making plans for our annual trip. Details will follow.

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

Rolls of paper

Sandpaper

Bubble wrap

String

Envelopes

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

Finally, 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 support.

Kind regards

Mrs Hind, Mrs Mather, Mrs McAllister and the Reception Team

