



Reception

Parent Newsletter  
Spring 2016

Mrs Thompson  
Miss Plumb

A school where everyone shines.

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday!  
We hope you have all had a great Christmas and wish you a happy new year.  
We hope you are ready for a busy half term; here is what we will be learning ;

	<p><u>Learning Challenge—Why is it always cold in winter?</u></p>
	<p>This week we have started our new learning challenge and have been exploring the properties of water. Over the half term we hope to explore ice and frost in the school grounds and relate this back to the seasons in a year. We will be talking about why we can see our breath outside and learning how to keep warm in winter. We will also be learning where animals go in winter and about the polar regions. We will be using our creative skills to experiment with colour mixing and create winter scenes. We will develop our knowledge of changes over time by freezing and melting water and discussing what happens when the temperature rises/falls.</p>
<p><u>Letters &amp; Sounds</u></p> 	<p>In letters and sounds some children will be recapping phase 2 sounds and practising blending and segmenting to ensure they are confident reading and writing words independently. Some children will be moving on to phase 3 sounds and will learn that 2/3 letters can make 1 sound, e.g ai, ee, igh. They will learn to recognise phase 3 sounds and apply them when reading and writing words and captions. All children will be learning the new tricky words (sight words); he, she, me, be, they and was. Please practise reading these with your child little and often to help them to remember them.</p>
<p><u>Literacy</u></p> 	<p>In Literacy, we will continue to work on the application of the skills taught in letters and sounds. The children will be reading and writing words, captions and short sentences. We will be using a variety of texts to encourage and inspire the children's reading and writing. We will also be starting guided reading sessions.</p>

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Subject	
<b>Mathematics</b> 	<p>In Maths, we will continue to work on number recognition and counting accurately within 20. The children will be introduced to addition and some children to subtraction. We will take part in a range of fun, practical activities to develop our skills in these areas. In shape, space and measure, we will develop our understanding of 3D shapes, weight and o'clock times. We will also be introduced to data handling and money. If you would like to come to the maths work shop and see how your child is taught maths, this will be the afternoon of Wednesday 27th January. A separate letter has been sent out about this with further details.</p>
<b>P.E</b> 	<p>In P.E, we will be learning how to transfer weight between body parts. We will find different ways of travelling on hands and feet as well as other body parts. The children will also be learning how to transfer weight by rocking on different body parts and rolling forwards or sideways. We will start by learning these skills through floor work and then transfer these skills to the apparatus. Our multi-skills session will also continue on Monday afternoons. Puffin class's PE session will now be on a Tuesday morning and Cygnet class's will be on Thursday morning.</p>
<b>Special</b> 	<p>During the last week of term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. We will be learning about the Chinese New Year story and Chinese traditions for the festival. During the week we will be tasting Chinese food, doing a dragon dance, plus many Chinese New Year related crafts. On Shrove Tuesday we will be making our own pancakes, talking about family traditions and discussing likes and dislikes. We will explain why we celebrate Pancake Day and discuss why Christians give something up for lent.</p>

Please see over for information about homework and general notices. If you are unsure about homework tasks or would like more information on subjects your child will be studying please ask your teachers for help. It is vital we work together to ensure your child's success.

### How to help at home:

Thank you for all of your support during the first term. We have included some helpful tips to help you to help your child below:

**Reading** – Children should be reading every night at home and books are changed every other day. Please ensure that your child puts their book bag/book into the box every day and that you sign when your child has read their book.

### **There's a minion reasons to read!**

From next Monday we will be continuing The Minion Challenge reading competition. The challenges will start on a Monday and will run on a weekly basis. For each challenge completed children will receive a sticker, certificate or prize. Plus the class with the most bananas by Friday will receive a treat! Please see letter attached for more details.

**Homework**– This will continue to be handed out every Wednesday and needs to be returned by the following Monday. The activities will continue to be related to prior learning in class and will help your child to embed the skills.

**General Notices**– P.E. days have changed to Tuesday morning for Puffin Class and Thursday mornings for Cygnet class. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit for these days.

### **Attendance**

Every lesson counts – please allow your child to develop by attending school each day. We hope you are all well and look forward to your support throughout the term.

### **Staff changes**

Mrs Willcocks will be starting her maternity leave from next week Mrs Rehman has been appointed to cover Mrs Willcocks' maternity leave, and has been shadowing her this week to ensure a smooth transition is made. Mrs Rehman will be working with the children in both classes so please say hello as she welcomes you in a morning!

The Reception Team