

Reception

Parent Newsletter
 Spring 2016

Miss Plumb
 Miss Bailey

A school where everyone shines.

Welcome back after the Easter holiday!
 We hope you are ready for a busy half term; here is what we will be learning ;

	<p>Learning Challenge—Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are.</p>
	<p>This week we have started our new learning challenge. Over the half term we will be learning all about space and the solar system. We will be re-researching the sun, moon and planets, then using our research to write non-fiction books about space. We will also be looking at stars and investigating the different patterns stars make. We will be using our enquiry skills to draw around our shadows and comparing the different sizes of them at different times of the day. We will also be using our questioning skills to discuss gravity and talk about why things happen and how things work. We will develop our creative skills by folding, scrunching, moulding and joining materials to make rockets, flying saucers and planets.</p>
<p>Letters & Sounds</p> 	<p>In letters and sounds some children are working on phase 3 sounds and will learn that 2/3 letters can make one sound e.g ai, ee, igh. They will learn to recognise phase 3 sounds and apply them when reading and writing words and captions.</p> <p>Some children will be moving on to phase 4 in the next couple of weeks and will be learning to read and write words that have adjacent consonants in (2 or more consonants together in a word) e.g tent, toast and stand.</p> <p>Over the next couple of weeks some children will also be moving on to phase 5 sounds, and learning about the different sound families e.g igh, y, ie, i-e. During this phase children will be taught about the different ways to read and write words using the sound families and their alternative sounds.</p> <p>All children need to be practising their tricky words on a regular basis and some will be receiving a new set if they have moved on to the next phase.</p>
<p>Literacy</p> 	<p>During this half term we will listen to and read quality texts about space, both fiction and non-fiction, such as 'Come and Visit the Moon' by Stan Cullimore and 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. The children will practice reading captions and sentences daily and will have a designated weekly time for Guided Reading. The children will be using their knowledge of letters and sounds to write for a range of purposes.</p> <p>We will retell stories, write factual information about space as well as writing instructions.</p>

Subject	
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>The children will continue to develop their skills in numeral recognition and in ordering numbers up to 20. Some children will practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and will group objects in those amounts. They will continue to develop their addition skills by combining different amounts, counting along a number line and finding number bonds to 10. Subtraction skills will be developed by taking away an amount from a set of objects. Children will be challenged by solving simple number problems and be able to record their problems in a number sentence. In Shape Space and Measures children will measure time and distance in simple ways. We will also focus on mathematical vocabulary in relation to length, weight and height. Children's understanding of 2D and 3D shapes will be developed by deepening their understanding of their properties.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p> 	<p>Puffin Class will continue to do PE on a Tuesday and Cygnet Class will continue to do PE on a Thursday. Children will develop their balance and co-ordination by moving around the hall in different ways. Ball skills will be developed so that children can throw and kick in a controlled manner. Throwing and catching over short and longer distances will be practiced. We will be practising travelling in different ways such as jumping, skipping and crawling and then begin to link these movements together. Throughout the term we will continue to build on these skills to enable us to link actions, to perform a travel and balance both on our own and in a small group.</p>
<p>Special Times</p> 	<p>On Friday 22nd April we are going to be celebrating St George's Day. During the day we are going to be learning why we celebrate St George's Day by sharing the story of George and the dragon. We will be doing activities related to knights and castles and discussing how people celebrate the day. During the last week of term we will be celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death by having Shakespeare Week, During the week we will be taking part in a drama workshop led by a theatre company and having a whole school picnic on the Thursday afternoon. On Wednesday 25th May we will be having balance bike sessions during the morning to help to develop our physical development skills. Please ensure your child has trainers or plimsolls in school for this day.</p>

Please see over for information about homework and general notices. 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 last half term. We have included some helpful tips to help you to help your child below:

Reading

We have decided to continue with changing your child's books once a week, as many parents have told us their child has enjoyed having a choice of books and it has allowed them to become more confident applying new sounds. Over the course of this week we have listened to your child read and moved them on to the next band if they were ready. Please continue to let us know about your child's reading achievements by either writing in their diary or chatting to us. Please see below for your child's book changing day:

Monday—Brilliant Butterflies

Tuesday—Clever Caterpillars

Wednesday—Proud Peacocks

Thursday—Fantastic Foxes

Friday—Super Squirrels

Children should still be reading every night at home and have their book bag with them everyday.

Homework— This will continue to be handed out every Wednesday and needs to be returned by the following Monday. As we work towards the Early Learning Goals this term, during some weeks we may hand out both a literacy and maths piece of homework. This will also help to prepare your child for the homework in Year 1.

Parent Noticeboard & Talent Tree

Over Easter we have made a parent noticeboard in our Reception corridor. We have included the latest newsletter, previous letters and a forthcoming events board to ensure you are kept up to date with our events in school.

We have also made a Talent Tree to allow you to share your child's achievements at home with us. Please use the leaves provided to tell us momentous things like your child riding a bike without stabilisers, learning to swim 5m or any other special time.

General Notices

Attenborough Nature Reserve Trip— We have arranged a trip to Attenborough Nature Reserve on Thursday 7th July. More information to follow during the term.

Our Reception Sports Day will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd June at 2pm.

We hope you are all well and look forward to your support throughout the term.

The Reception Team