



## Class Newsletter

Reception

Summer 2021

### **Welcome back!**

We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and feel prepared for this term. We look forward to hearing all about what you have done and looking at your online observations of your various adventures and achievements.

### **Themes**

For the first half term our theme is **Onwards and Upwards**. We will be covering growth and change over time, looking at how animals and plants change and grow and how we can look after this process.

In the second half of the term the theme will be **Explorers!** In this time we will consider different types of explorers in history and our own imaginative worlds. We will begin to explore our new classroom for next year and discuss our transition into Year 1.

As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, all of the Early Learning Goals are approached and covered through our topics and through the children's self-initiated play.

### **Phonics and Handwriting**

Phonics will continue to support children in developing their knowledge and application of letters and sounds. The children will be exposed to different clusters and combinations of sounds to develop their reading ability into our Phase 4 and 5 progression of teaching.

Handwriting will continue to be taught and practiced alongside this teaching to support the children in writing words, captions and short sentences. We will revisit our previous phonics skills and utilise these in our writing.



### **Reading**

The children will continue to develop their reading skills and advance through our wide range of literature at an appropriate pace and ability level for them. We will continue to try to listen to children once a week, but would really appreciate continued efforts to listen to your children read at home.

Books will still be changed twice a week- on a Monday and Friday. If you feel your child would benefit from remaining on the same text to build up fluency, please leave a note in the reading record stating this. Please note, if no message has been left to indicate your child has read their book it will not be changed.

### **Life Skills**

We will continue with our learning through our Jigsaw curriculum. Relationships and Changing Me are our topic titles for this term. We will look at our learning and development in relation to these topical themes to further our learning about ourselves.



**ICT**

The children use the ICT suite on a regular basis but also have access to the classroom computer and laptops at other times. The children are continuing their ICT project, using the mouse to draw an image and then typing short sentences underneath to make a digital story. At the end of the term, these will be printed and the children will share them with others.

**Physical Development**

In addition to the continuous access that the children have to Physical Development equipment, we also have focused whole class sessions. These sessions take place on Monday afternoon and are led by a qualified sports coach.

We also do Wake and Shake sessions at least once a day, which vary in content and are loved by all the children!

**Homework**

The booklets will continue to focus on letter and number formation, with a move to consolidating other learning from our time in school. In addition to this, you will receive some advice on areas to cover at home in the weekly newsletters.

We are now introducing Take Away Homework. By completing these tasks, the children will become familiar with this routine which is used throughout the school.

**Any questions?**

If you have any questions or need to speak to us about anything please do not hesitate in coming to see any of the Early Years Team.

**Mathematics**

We will continue to enhance and develop our mathematics skills, looking at previously covered topics to develop them to higher complexities and deepen our understanding further.

We are focussing on the use of correct mathematical language and using this as a tool to develop our understanding of expanding topics.

We are beginning to move away from counting to a total, and utilising our amazing skills of counting on and back for addition and subtraction.

**Wow moments**

We have really enjoyed looking at these so far and would love you to keep them coming in! It is amazing to see how passionate the children are to talk about what they get up to and show off their pictures to the class.

**Show and Tell**

Children can share work, achievements and special moments they are proud of. We use this time to encourage children to develop their speaking and listening skills and find that the more purpose the item or image has, the more meaningful their discussion. Please keep using EExAT to upload images of these moments, we have found the children really engage with this well!

**Reminders**

Home toys are not to come into school. We cannot guarantee they will return home or stay in one piece and this does not fit with our COVID risk assessment.