

Reception Newsletter

- Just to remind you that you will receive a newsletter every term. This will be available on the [website under letters to parents](#). (If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the office know.)
- [Forest School](#) will continue on a **Monday** for both classes. As the weather will continue to get colder, please ensure the children have warm layers of clothes, hats and gloves. An old coat that you don't mind getting muddy is ideal.
- [PE](#) will also continue on a **Thursday** for all classes this term. We encourage leaving PE kits in school all term to reduce things coming into and leaving school. This is recommended in the Covid-19 guidelines.

Topic for term 2:

Paws and Claws

Driving question: What if doctors and vets didn't exist?

Our topic this term is primarily focused around vets and pets. We will be learning our version of the story "The Selfish Duck", based on The Selfish Crocodile.
The children will also be learning about the story of Christmas.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term one of our main focuses within PSED is motivation. We are encouraging the children to have a positive attitude towards their learning and to keep trying and show perseverance. As a whole school we are trying to use the phrase – 'nothing is impossible, in fact the word itself says: I'm possible' This term our topic is linked to vets, pets, doctors and dentists so this will also be a chance for us to look at showing care and concern to others including animals. We will also be looking further at the zones of regulation and understanding our own and other people's emotions.

Maths

The pupils have been amazing last term at learning how to measure, compare size, capacity and weight. Over this new term, we will carry on learning numbers to 5 which includes knowing number bonds, one more/less and subitising. We will also have a focus on naming, describing, manipulating 2D shapes to develop our spatial reasoning skills. The children will also begin to use positional language to describe how items are positioned in relation to other items.

Expressive Arts and Design

At the start of the term, we will be making some bonfire and firework paintings using a range of materials. We will continue to practise art skills through Diwali rangoli patterns and Christmas crafts. As the term progresses, we will be turning our role-play area into a vet and doctors surgery followed by a pet shop. The children can act as a shop keeper, vet, nurse, doctor, or even a patient. We are also going to be using different natural materials in forest school to make enclosures and homes for the different types of pets that people may have.

During the latter half of the term, we will be learning some Christmas songs or poems which we hope to perform virtually in some way to you all!

Physical Development

This term we are going to be focusing on how we can live a healthy lifestyle looking into the types of food we should eat and how to exercise in different ways. We will be looking at ways in which we can keep our bodies healthy and active. This will also include oral health and how vital brushing our teeth is. We will also be reminding the children the importance of washing our hands, not only after we have been to the toilet but also before eating, after handling animals and at other points during the day.

The children will be continuing with weekly P.E. lessons on a Thursday. Please keep encouraging your child to practise getting dressed independently, including fastening and unfastening buttons. Why not put a song on at home and challenge them to get dressed before the song finishes all on their own?

We will have a big focus on gross motor skills this term which will really develop the children's confidence in their moving and handling. We will get the apparatus out for the children to experiment with during our PE sessions which they will be able to climb under, over and balance and swing on.

Understanding the World

We will be looking at and discussing with the children how they celebrate Christmas. We will also learning about other upcoming festivals and celebrations such as bonfire night and Diwali. The discussions we have will be centred on pupils showing respect and tolerance for others views and beliefs and how we are all have similarities and differences. **We would love you to add any celebrations or religious/cultural events your child takes part in on Tapestry for us to share with their peers.** Our other focus will be finding out about the differences and similarities between humans and animals. Pupils will use their observations to draw pictures of animals and their features. There will also be a big focus on showing care and concern for living things, including how we can do our part by taking care of our immediate environment.

We will be looking at people's roles in society, in particular vets, doctors and dentists. Thinking about what would happen if these roles didn't exist and making comparisons to the past when these roles weren't as advanced.

Communication and Language, Reading and Writing

The children worked very hard in term 1 to learn the sounds and complete their homework; thank you for supporting your child with this. This term we will be continuing to learn new sounds, red words and key words, while continuing to practise Fred talking and blending daily (e.g. sounding out words like pet as p-e-t). We are aiming for children to be able to begin to read and write some simple words using their phonic knowledge this term. We are also having a big focus on supporting children to write their names independently using the cursive script. Please also look out for levelled reading books being sent out this term for children to borrow and practise reading regularly at home.

HOME ACTIVITIES

Homework sound books will continue to go home weekly (due in on Thursdays) please can you ensure your child is reviewing and learning the sounds as well as the red words. These are important foundation skills to help them when starting to read books and write sentences.

To practise reading skills at home you could play these ICT games:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase2Menu.htm>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-2>

Help your child learn to write in the cursive script by downloading the 'singalong cursive handwriting' APP on:

<http://hatch-works.com/singalong-cursive-handwriting/>

Alternatively, practise playing i-spy using initial sounds e.g. I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'sh'.

Some online maths games you could try:

One more/one less - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/chopper-squad>

Counting and recognising numbers - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting>

Shape patterns - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/shape-patterns>

Practise subitising by playing games that involving quickly recognising amounts up to 5 without counting e.g. dominoes with spots, or games using a 6-sided spot dice.

The children really enjoy sharing things they have done at home with their peers, so we encourage you to add any activities, achievements, events or interests from home onto **Tapestry**. These photos can then be used by your child to tell the class about their experiences out of school.

REMINDERS AND DATES

Monday 2nd November – Back to school after half term.

Friday 20th November – INSET DAY school closed for all pupils.

Friday 18th December – Last day of term

Monday 4th January – First day back after Christmas Holidays