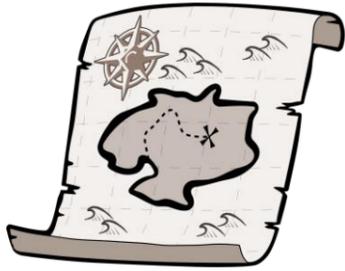


# Reception Newsletter

- Welcome back, we hope you all had a good break over the Easter Holidays.
- Remember to please keep uploading things on Tapestry. Every Friday, we share Tapestry with the rest of the class and all of the children love it!



## A Pirates life for me!

We are very excited that our topic this term is all about Pirates. We will look at who pirates are, what they did and where they lived. We will also be looking at the creatures that live under the sea!

Focus questions for this term:

Week 1 – If you could ask someone anything, who would it be and what would you ask? e.g. questioning Black Eyed Bill?

Week 2 - How could you get there?

Week 3 –Has anything changed over time?

Week 4 – Can you explain how you made it? e.g. making boats

Week 5 - Explain what happened to the characters in the stories we have looked at?

Week 6 - How can you make a healthy choice?

**PLEASE NOTE: Monday 19th APRIL - We are having a pirate themed dress up day. Children can come to school dressed up as pirates/parrots or anything to do with the pirate theme!  
There will be no forest school on this day!**

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our main focus will be to make sure the children keep growing in confidence and independence. We only have 2 terms left until they graduate to KS1 so we want them to become confident learners and are able to think and do for themselves. We are encouraging the children to be independent in their learning and in their social and emotional development. A key point for the children's social development is to be able to resolve their own problems and conflicts without relying on adult intervention and support. Linked to our theme of pirates, we will be looking at right and wrong and whether Pirates are good role models for this.

## Maths

Our maths focus for this term is going to be numbers beyond 10 and using counting patterns. We will also look at doubling, halving and sharing through problem solving, for example, sharing treasure fairly between pirates. We will also be developing spatial reasoning skills, through the matching, rotating and manipulating of shapes. Pupils will also be challenged to compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.

At home you could:

- Continue working on number bonds to 10.
- Complete jigsaw puzzles.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Using junk modelling, we will be creating our own boats and islands for our pirates. We will also look at designing flags, maps and our own pirates. There will be writing opportunities; messages in a bottle and wanted posters to make. To bring out our creative and imaginative side, we will be looking at fantasy creatures such as mermaids and mermen.

## Physical Development

As always, PE will be on a Thursday for Peach and Pear class. However, we will be starting to do PE outside so all children will need PE shoes and a warm black jumper in case it is still cold out. We will be practising our balancing skills, like pirates walking the plank, and using different sized balls to play different games on our own and in a small team.

## Understanding the World

Due to our focus on pirates and the sea, we will look at how humans have affected the ocean and its creatures with their plastic pollution. Another area we will be focusing on this term, is finding out which materials would make the perfect ship.

We will also be talking about old fashioned pirate rules and comparing them to today's society rules.



## Reading and Writing

This term we will be learning the story of Black-Eyed Bills Pirate Adventure. When we are practising our writing we will be more focused towards making sure our sentence structure is correct and remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We will be writing messages in a bottle, our own versions of Black- Eyed Bill's Pirate Adventure and lots lots more. Please ensure that when your child is writing at home, they are forming their cursive letters correctly. They should not be taking their pencil off of the paper to add in the lead in and lead out strokes; each letter should be a continuous flowing movement. This in preparation for moving to joined up handwriting in KS1. We will be continuing to practise all of the sounds that we have learnt with daily focus on our key words (red words). Please could you practise these at home; your child will need to be able to start to read and write them independently as we move towards term 5 and 6.

- You could download this reading app – “Teach your monster how to read.” We have downloaded this onto the school iPads so the children are familiar with it.
- <http://www.ictgames.com/poopDeckPirates/index.html>

## HOME ACTIVITY

New homework books be sent out weekly (due in on Thursdays, sent home on Fridays) and will contain a phonics reading/writing activity to complete. Also if your child is receiving a levelled reading book, please make sure you are reading this several times a week and discussing what happens in the story or what they think might happen next and why. **Please keep their reading book in their book bag so that they can be changed weekly.** If they are not in bags then they will not be changed until the following week. If you don't understand the homework that has been given to your child, then please ask and we will be happy to help.

## REMINDERS AND DATES

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Back to School. Children can come to school dressed as a pirate!**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Last day of term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Inset Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Term 6 Back to School



## Black-Eyed Bills Pirate Adventure.

*A long, long time ago there was a pirate ... a rough pirate, a tough pirate.*

*His name was Black Eyed Bill.*

*He sailed the seven seas upon a ship with his parrot, hunting for treasure.*

*On the first day they discovered a mermaid under a palm tree.... a fishy mermaid, a swishy mermaid who joined them on their adventure.*

*The next day they discovered an octopus in a rock pool.... A tickly octopus, a wiggly octopus who joined them on their adventure.*

*On the third and final day Black Eyed Bill rummaged in his pocket and pulled a telescope. He spied an island, a gigantic island. "Land Ahoy" he yelled.*

*They arrived on the island and began to dig until suddenly they found a treasure chest.*

*They pulled with a heave and a ho, opened the lid nice and slow. "Shiver me timbers! Chocolate coins.... quick let's go."*