

# Reception Newsletter

6 -



## Down at the bottom of the garden

Our topic this term is all about growing. This includes looking at the life cycle of a butterfly, watching our mystery seeds to see what grows and also looking at the mini-beasts that live amongst the plants and shrubs.

We will be focusing on the story Monkey Puzzle as our text to learn this term.

### Our focus questions this term:

**Week 1** - What details can you see that you've never noticed before?

**Week 2** - Have you come across any new words today that you haven't heard before?

**Week 3** - Do all things grow and change in the same way?

**Week 4** - How could you tell me a story with yourself, friends or family as the main characters?

**Week 5** - What do I know about the area I live in and how could I help to look after it?

**Week 6** - How could you record what you like about summer?

**Week 7** - What is my biggest achievement this year? What have I found the most challenging thing this year?



What an exciting and busy few weeks we had last term! The children thoroughly enjoyed our pirate topic by learning the story of Black Eyed Bill and designing, making and testing their own pirate ships on the water. What fun and excitement will next term bring?

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we will be thinking about how we can become confident to try new activities independently, showing perseverance and resilience in the face of a challenge. We will be discussing the qualities of an independent learner and will be allowing the children opportunities to excel themselves in these skills.

### Maths

This term we will be continue our focus on recalling our number bonds to 10 without the use of counting aids. As part of this we will be recapping our double facts and using what we know about number bonds to look at subtraction facts within 10. We will also explore representing patterns within numbers up to 10, including even and odd numbers. As part of shape, space and measure we will delve deeper into spatial reasoning and mapping.

### HOME ACTIVITY

Can you go on a bug hunt at home? Count up the amount of legs that you have found on the bug in total. If they had double the amount of legs/spots etc., how many would they have?

Have a go at this game to support with your child's understanding of recalling number bonds:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

### Physical Development

We will be focusing on handwriting as part of our fine motor skills this term, supporting children to become fluent with their letter formation and write with appropriate letter size. This term, P.E. will continue to be on a **Wednesday**. We will be making use of the outside space and developing our gross motor skills and coordination through a variety of track and field events. Please can you ensure children have outdoor shoes in their PE kits each week. **SPORTS DAY IS ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 9:10AM. Children are to come into school dressed in P.E kit and can stay in their kit for the whole day.** Parents are welcome to attend sports day which will take place on the school field. Please can all children be at school promptly for 8:45am, so that it enables us to register and organise them into their groups for the 9am event start.

### Understanding the World

Excitingly this term, we are going to be watching some caterpillars turn into butterflies! Each of the children will also be planting a mystery seed. They will look after and observe their seed grow by keeping a diary of pictures and measurements of their plant. At forest school we will also look at the changes in the environment around us as we move from spring to summer.

As part of our growing topic, we will be thinking about how we have grown and changed over time and our own personal history. To help with this, **please could you upload a baby picture of your child onto Tapestry**, so that pupils can make comparisons and support them to identify similarities and differences from then to now.

**HOME ACTIVITY:** Why not encourage the children to look at and draw pictures of the flowers and plants in your garden or when out on a walk? Look at the colours and the different shapes and sizes. You could even grow your own cress, runner beans or strawberries to see the changes as they grow!

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

We will continue with our focus on minibests to create a representation of a life cycle. Pupils will also have the opportunity to create their own patterned butterfly by exploring a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. We will be learning a new song to perform at our end of year graduation ceremony and also exploring composition during music lessons on Friday afternoons.

### **Communication and Language, Reading and Writing**

The children have worked very hard last term on their reading and writing which has been lovely to see; they are all enjoying being able to complete reading and writing challenges more independently. This term we will be continuing to use phonic knowledge to write phrases and sentences. We are also focusing on being able to spell red words correctly in our writing more confidently. Please practise reading and writing red words from reading books at home. Pupils could also be encouraged to help you with writing the shopping list or letters/cards to friends and family.



### **HOMEWORK**

Homework and reading books will continue to be weekly (due in on Thursdays, sent home on Fridays). We are encouraging children to take pride in their work at school so please can you make sure they are also working neatly in their homework books too. We check the books every week and love seeing and sharing with everyone their work that each child completes.

Also please make sure you are reading every day using the levelled reading book we send home. **Please keep their reading book in their book bag so that they can be changed weekly.**

### **Forest School**

We will still be doing Forest School this term on a Monday. As our art lessons will no longer be on a Monday afternoon, forest school kit will be needed again. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for this session including wellies and as the weather warms up, that sun cream is applied and a sun hat brought with them.

### **Transition information:**

In preparation for year 1, later in the term the children will be spending some time exploring the year 1 classrooms and meeting their year 1 teachers to ease the excitement and anxiety of transition. Their year 1 teachers will also visit them in the reception classrooms to get to know the children too. See below for more details on our whole school transition days.

**On the last 2 days of school – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, pupils will be spending full days in their year 1 classrooms. As previously mentioned in the meeting at the beginning of the year, Peach and Pear class will be mixed up so they will be in their **NEW** classes -Holly and Hazel. These days will be spent becoming familiar with the year 1 routines, getting to know their teacher and starting to feel a sense of belonging in their new classrooms. They will enter and leave from the year 1 classrooms and lunch will be as normal. More information about your child's new classroom, teacher, routines and uniform will be sent in due course. Please note – **last day in Reception classes will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **REMINDERS AND DATES**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Term 6 begins. Children return to school.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**- Peach and Pear Class Sports Day at 9:10am on the school field (children will come to school in their P.E kit and stay in this the whole day).

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June** – PTFA special man in your life market.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** – INSET DAY. No children in school.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – Cotswold wildlife park trip.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**- PTFA summer fair

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**- Reception Graduation Pear 1:45pm and Peach 2:30pm. **LAST DAY IN RECEPTION CLASSES.**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Transition Days (Children will be dropped off and collected from the Year 1 classrooms)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Last Day of term, school finishes at 1:45pm.

## The Monkey Puzzle

There once was a monkey, a **little brown** monkey **who** sat **sadly** looking glum.

He cried and he cried because he had lost his loving mum.

**All of a sudden** something flew by.

"Hush little monkey, don't you cry" said a beautiful, **fluttering** butterfly.

"Let's have a think. How big is she?"

"She's big!" said the monkey. "Bigger than me!"

"Bigger than you? Then I've seen your mum.

Come little monkey, come, come, come."

**First** they saw something with a **piercing** beak.

"No, no, no, that's a parrot, my mum doesn't **squabble** and **shriek**!

Ok, come little monkey, come, come, come."

Next they heard a **strange** hiss.

"No, no, no, that's a snake, my mum looks nothing like this!

Ok, come little monkey, come, come, come."

Then, they felt something **hairy** and fat.

"No, no, no, that's a spider, my mum doesn't have as many legs as that!"

Ok, come little monkey, come, come, come.

"But, butterfly, butterfly can't you see?

None of these **creatures** look like me!"

"I didn't know. I couldn't you see.

None of my babies look like me!

"Come little monkey, come, come, come.

Let's take you home to your.. Mum!"

The end