

# Reception Newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of your support this term. It has been a very busy term! A special thanks for providing costumes for our Christmas Nativity. We really hope you enjoyed seeing your child/children perform- we are all very proud of them! Below are some photos from Term 2 to remind us of all the things we have been doing.



## A few reminders for term 3:

- Just to remind you that you will receive a newsletter every term. This will be available on the website under our class page. Please check this page regularly as we will upload the texts we will be learning and photos of what we have achieved. If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the office know.
- PE: Peach and Pear class's P.E sessions will continue on a Friday. Please ensure earrings are taken out or taped over on this day. PE lessons will be outside in term 3, so please include outdoor trainers, joggers and hoodies in PE kits.
- Forest School will start again this term on a Thursday. Please ensure children bring warm old clothes in a bag each week.
- Homework will need to be brought into school on a Thursday as normal and handed back out on a Friday.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be focusing on talking about how they and others show different feelings. We will discuss different strategies to solve disputes they have with their peers and the right way to behave if somebody doesn't do as we expect them to. We will also be talking about what we are good at and share these ideas with our peers. In our carpet sessions we will be encouraging the children to have an opinion and model the correct way to express these opinions. We are going to be talking about being **resilient and how to persevere**; linking to our Power Skill of Character this term. We will talk about what this means with the children in terms of, not giving up, trying and trying again and having the mindset that they will be able to achieve if they try hard and do not give up.

**At home you could:** talk about different events, stories and experiences in your child's life and encourage them to say what they like and dislike. You could also ask them what they feel they are good at and encourage them to be proud of their successes and talents. Reception children could also take photos of their favourite activities or places and help them to describe their personal preferences and opinions. We would love to see all of the things you do at home on tapestry.

## Maths

This term we start with a focus on the composition of numbers to 5. This will include; exploring different ways each number can be composed and decomposed, leading to learning number bonds to 5. Later in the term we will focus on numbers 6,7,8 gaining a deep understanding of their composition, comparing quantities and finding the total amount through addition and subtraction.

**At home you could:** Can you practice counting and recognising numbers to 20? It is also important to be able to count back from 20 to 0 independently. This will help support subtraction skills. Have a look at these sites to help you at home <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/helicopter-rescue> or <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering>

This website uses a 5 frame to support number bonds and allows the children to explore different ways to make 5.  
[5 Frame - Number bonds](#)

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

This term we will be turning our topic area into a 'space station' where the children can imagine being an astronaut or an engineer. Finally, we will introduce our driving question this term 'How can we, as engineers, get our stranded alien back home? The children will be planning, designing and testing their rockets. They will have to think about what they want it to look like, what the best materials are to use and whether they think it will function for the purpose.

**At home you could:** find out more about space. Which planets are in our solar system and what do astronauts do on the international space station? How do astronauts travel to space and what different features does a rocket/space shuttle have?

## **Physical Development**

In P.E this term we will be using a variety of different sized balls to play games and practice controlling these when doing different movements including, throwing, catching, aiming, batting and kicking. These sessions will be taking place outside on the playground. In class, we will continue to strengthen the children's fine motor skills, which involve using the small muscles in the hands and wrists. These skills are essential for developing good pencil control and confident letter formation. This term, we will also begin dedicated handwriting sessions, focusing on correct letter formation, posture, and pencil grip. These sessions will support the children in becoming more fluent and accurate writers as the year progresses.

**At home you could:** Give your child opportunities for fine motor development e.g. using scissors, buttoning up clothes, threading beads, playing with play dough and drawing pictures.

## **Understanding the World**

This term we will begin by looking at celebrations. We want the children to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways and at different points in the year. Please upload any photos of any significant events and celebrations to Tapestry for the children to share with their peers. Our pupils will also be looking at how our environment has changed since last term now that it is winter. They will understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them and changes states of matter. For example, we will look at ice melting and the wider issue of global warming.

**At home you could:** Give your child opportunities to explore freezing water to create ice and then melting it again. Also while on a walk can you notice any signs of winter e.g. frost, bare trees, few insects/flowers, hibernation.

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

The children worked very hard last term to learn the first set of sounds and complete their homework; thank you for supporting your child with this. Most children are confident to recognise these sounds now and so will begin to learn digraphs. They will begin to read sight words (red words) and will also be practising to read and write words, phrases and sentences. It is important the children can read their own writing work back and show an understanding of what they have read.



**At home you could:** Practice writing their name, start to write simple phrases and sentences (if they are ready) e.g. try to encourage them to help you write your shopping list, or write their own birthday card for a relative.

You could also try this: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework books will continue to go home weekly (due in on Thursdays). You can use this game to help with reading skills - <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/SentSubPhase3.html> . Also, if your child is now receiving a levelled reading book please make sure you are reading this. Please keep this in their book bag so that they can be changed weekly and we can hear them read throughout the week.

## **Important Dates:**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January:	INSET DAY no children in school
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January:	School returns for children in years Reception – Year 6.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January:	EYFS bedtime stories (afterschool event)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February:	PTFA School Disco
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	Last day of Term 3
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February:	Term 4 starts for all children