



## Class Newsletter

Reception

Spring 2022

### **Welcome back!**

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break—Happy New Year to all our families! Please feel free to upload photos and videos to Tapestry to show what you and your children got up to. Now, to a new term with lots of fun and exciting plans for your children!

### **Themes**

For the first half term our theme is **Roar, Quack, Purr!** This topic is based around well-known stories with animals as the characters. We will learn about story structures using these books, as well as learning about the animals, their natural habitats, their features and how zoos work. In the second half of the term the theme will be **How does your garden grow?** This topic will enable us to learn and explore all about the plants and nature around us, as well as learning about how we can help nature ourselves.

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 (digraphs and trigraphs) of sounds to develop their reading ability, continuing our Phase 3 progression of teaching.

Letter formation will continue to be taught through 1:1 teacher time and fun activities with words, captions and short sentences.



### **Reading**

The children will continue to develop their reading skills and advance through our wide range of literature and games at an appropriate pace and ability level for them. We will continue 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 on a Monday. 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.



### **PSHE (life skills)**

We will continue with our learning through our Jigsaw curriculum. **Dreams and Goals** and **Healthy Me** are our topic titles for this term. We will be engaging in class group discussions, group activities, role play areas and visitors in relation to these themes to further our learning about ourselves.

### **Physical Development**

We have opportunities for developing fine motor skills every day in Reception such as bead threading, tweezer games etc to build our hand muscles and hand/eye coordination. In addition, we have a whiteboard challenge every morning until Mrs Armitage comes back from the gate—this are always with the aim to increase control and accuracy with mark making.

Within our provision we have multiple opportunities for gross motor development such as the pirate ship climbing frame and bikes, but we also have a set group sessions each week to concentrate on particular skills—these PE sessions will continue to be on Thursday same as last term.

### **Mathematics**

We are using the Mastery Maths program in Reception this year, which takes mathematic learning very slowly. This helps to continuously explore the numbers, number properties, the different ways it can be represented, the properties of numbers when together etc. Last term we concentrated on subitising and numbers 0-5. This term we are moving onto numbers 6-10, number pairs within 5 and 10, simple addition and odds/evens.

We will also be exploring shape and measurement through the use of activities and our mathematic/sand area in the outdoor classroom. This term we will concentrate on 2D shapes and their properties.



### **Communication & Language and Personal, Social & Emotional development**

Throughout our environment and teaching the children learn a lot of new vocabulary, sentence structure modelling, understanding, turn taking, empathy and social skills. All children also have the chance to play a Communication and Language skill game in small groups at least once, if not twice a week—these are always fun games that encourage the use of social communication, new vocabulary, understanding or developing sentence structure.

### **Reminders**

- Home toys are best not to come into school. We cannot guarantee they will return home or stay in one piece!
- You are welcome to send a fruit snack in with your child each day if they don't like the fruit at school.
- Drop off is at 8.35am—please wait for Mrs Armitage to reach the gate before sending your child into school. Pick up is at 3.15pm (2.10pm on Fridays) and we ask that you continue to line up patiently for your child—we get them to you as quick as we can!

### **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 or messaging Mrs Armitage on ClassDojo.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Your children will be exposed to multiple opportunities this term for art, dance, signing, role play areas, and imaginative play props to develop their skills and learn new ones. These will all loosely be based around our topics of animals and nature. We are hoping to invite you in at some point this term to view their artwork in an exhibition—watch this space!

### **Homework**

This term Robins will continue to get homework that is fun, exciting and engaging. We will be sending them on flower hunts, asking them to create posters, offering ideas for experiences to link in with learning and even some art projects. These activities support the learning they are doing at school, without the need of laborious worksheets and hard work on your parts as parents!

### **Tapestry**

Please continue to contribute to your child's learning journey by posting their WOW moments on their Tapestry account. We love seeing them!

### **Class Fund**

This term we are starting a Reception Class Fund, and we are asking for donations of 20-50p a week per child- if you are able to please. This fund is only ever going to be used for the children and their classroom activities, including buying playdough ingredients, cooking ingredients, messy play activities etc, plus anything additional that is needed on an adhoc basis. There will be a pot in class so you can send this in any day of the week with your child. Thank you for your continued support—we really appreciate it.

### **RSPB Wild Challenge**

This term we will be working towards our Bronze Wild Challenge as a class. To achieve this award, we need to complete a series of nature exploration activities, and a series of helping nature activities. We will keep you updated on what activities we are doing and how close we are to our goal! You can find out more general information on the RSPB website if you wish.