

# Reception Newsletter

## Spring Term 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas break, we hope that you and your children had a fantastic holiday.

### **The Team**

We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Cooper last term but we wish her all the best for the birth of her second child. We welcome Mrs Saunders to our team who will be working in RF class.

### **Diary Dates**

Break up for half term - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Children return to school - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Living Eggs - between 27/2 and 10/3

World Book Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Reception Assembly - parents invited, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Parent / Teacher Meetings - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Class photos - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Break for Easter holiday - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March



## **The Curriculum**

Just by way of a reminder, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning:

### **Prime Areas:**

- 1. Personal, social and emotional development**
- 2. Physical Development**
- 3. Communication and Language**

### **Specific Areas:**

- 4. Literacy**
- 5. Mathematics**
- 6. Understanding the world**
- 7. Expressive Arts & Design**

In the Foundation classes the different areas are usually integrated, although Literacy and Mathematics have separate sessions. The children also have weekly ICT and P.E sessions and a Circle Time activity linked to Personal, social and emotional development.

### **Skills for Life**

Whatever we teach we aim to encourage the development of the following : playing and exploring by having a go and investigating, creating and thinking critically by developing ideas, making links and developing strategies, and active learning by keeping on trying, concentrating and enjoying achieving.

### **Our Topics**

For the first half term our topic will be Space which will give the children the opportunity to find out lots of new, interesting facts. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year with the children. After half term it will be Traditional Tales. This topic always presents plenty of opportunities for role play and storytelling. We will also be experiencing at first hand animal life cycles over the next two terms.

### **Literacy**

As you are aware Farnborough School uses the Letters and Sounds programme together with Jolly Phonics to teach Phonics and this is taught through daily sessions. The children will continue to have a daily whole class input followed by group tasks this term. However now that all the basic sounds have been covered, which we will continue to consolidate, the children will now also be taught digraphs (two letters, one sound). We will also continue to teach tricky words - these are words that can't be sounded out.

In writing we started teaching cursive handwriting with the children initially pattern making and with exercises to develop their fine motor skills. They are now practising, on a daily basis, letter formation with the support of letter rhymes. Please encourage the children to say these letter rhymes to you at home too.

This term we will also focus on CVC words and writing simple sentences with the introduction of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

## Maths

We aim to give the children a thorough understanding of the teen numbers this term, which will include forming these numbers correctly in any written work. We will also introduce adding and subtracting. The children will also explore 3D shapes, weighing and measuring and be introduced to money.

## Forest School

The children are enjoying exploring Forest School, and observing the changes in the seasons. We are looking forward to them experiencing Spring this term and seeing all the changes this will bring. They will also have the opportunity to do some camp fire cooking and participate in other topic based activities.

## Helping your child at home

Please continue to support your child with learning letter sounds and asking them to read to you daily, including talking about what they have read. Reading aloud to your child is also an extremely valuable activity as it gives the child access to books they are not able to read on their own. Non-fiction is just as useful as fiction; read whatever your child is interested in! Research shows that children who enjoy reading and are read to on a regular basis achieve more highly across the curriculum and in later life. Please also take the opportunity to discuss numbers and shapes in your local environment - this could be counting steps on the way to school to looking at numbers on car number plates or going on a shape hunt. Your child will also continue to receive weekly homework which will be aimed at embedding learning and core skills.

## Housekeeping

Just a quick reminder:

- Reading books will continue to be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday but the Reading Folder must be sent into school every day. Please ensure that your child's Reading Records have been signed when they have read to you so that we know when they have practised at home.
- Library visits will take place on Monday (RF) and Thursday (RP) and the children will have the opportunity to change their library book provided it is sent into school on that day.
- Please make sure your child is adequately dressed for the weather and **ensure that all clothing is clearly named.**

If you have any problems or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are also usually available after school if you want a quick chat.

Best wishes ,

Mrs Bushell and Mrs Holmes