

Reception Curriculum Newsletter

We can't believe it's already the Spring term! We have lots of exciting activities lined up for this term and this newsletter will hopefully explain various aspects of your child's learning and any changes to our daily routines.



Reading

Children will continue to bring home a phonic book as their main reader this term and this will be changed regularly to reflect the phonics that the children are learning in class. Children will also be bringing home a free choice 'colour banded book' (the one with a coloured sticker on the side) and this will be changed once a week by an adult. If you need this colour banded book changed before this, please just ask. Before changing books, it is important to read the book more than once to ensure fluency. We will be most grateful if you can continue to support reading at home as much as possible, just a little every day will have an immeasurably positive impact on your child's progress in school and a few pages per night is great. Please record any reading at home in the children's reading diaries. You are welcome to simply tick which days your child has read at home or add a comment - it is up to you!

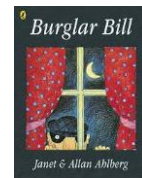
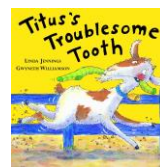
Phonics

Children will continue to take part in a phonics' lesson each day. We are now teaching phonics using a scheme called 'Read, Write, Inc' and we will be able to tell you more about this in our parents' meeting on the 7th February (details to follow). The children are really enjoying it and we are very pleased with the impact that it is having on children's progress.



Topic and Literacy

Our new topic this term is 'People Who Help Us'. During the first half term we will be learning about firefighters and police officers and during the second half term our focus will move onto Doctors and Dentists. In Literacy we will be looking at lots of non-fiction books and learning to use a contents page. Our two main fiction texts will be the wonderful 'Burglar Bill' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and 'Titus' Troublesome Tooth' by Linda Jennings and Gwyneth Williamson. We are also looking forward to a visit from our local police officer this term too and children will be planning their own interview questions.



Maths

This term children will be learning about the composition of numbers to 10, adding numbers to 10 and continuing to explore 1 more and 1 less. We will also be learning to measure and compare weight, capacity, length and height and just before the Easter break will begin to learn how to tell the time. There will be lots of problem solving for those needing an extra challenge!

Timetabling highlights

CHAT Tuesday 3.15 - 3.45pm - a chance to pop in to see the class teacher or look at your child's work.

TREETOP Thursday - we are continuing to visit the Forest School Area on Thursday afternoons. We have most children's wellingtons in school already and children will need to wrap up warm!

Homework - home on Thursdays to be returned on the following Tuesday. Thank you.

P.E. times

This term children are having a fitness session with Mrs Harvey every Monday morning and take part in a P.E. session with Mrs Branch in the hall on Tuesdays. This half term children will be doing gymnastics and next term our focus will be on learning a dinosaur dance! Please can children continue to bring their P.E. kit to school on Mondays and we will return it on Fridays.

Child Home And Teacher Slips (CHAT Slips)

CHAT slips continue to act as a means of communication between school and home and are super to help us to keep in touch with your child's achievements.

If you run out or need any more, please just ask me at the gate or on CHAT Tuesdays. We have been putting these into the children's learning journey books and they love to share them with their friends!



And finally....

We often get asked, 'how else can I help at home?'.

The number one answers are always to read regularly and to support independence (for example fastening coats). However, these things would also be wonderful:

- Support your children in writing their name with the correct formation. The following link has some super rhymes to help with this. [Letter-formation-chart.pdf \(thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk\)](http://thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/Letter-formation-chart.pdf)
- Count aloud to 20 and beyond.
- Learn to count backwards from 20
- Play some of the free phonic games at www.phonicsplay.co.uk Please ask if you need any advice about which level to choose.



Thank you for all your support with your child's learning this school year. We have a wonderful class and look forward to working with you over the coming term.

From the Reception Team.