

Reception Cherry Class Newsletter Spring term 2019

Dear parent/carer,

We hope you had a restful break. We are looking forward to a busy half term of learning. Here are a few things you may like to know about our learning and key dates/events.

Punctuality and attendance

We have noticed a number of pupils arriving late in the mornings. School starts at **8:55 AM** sharp and it is extremely important that children arrive at this time. Arriving late is disruptive to all students and means they miss valuable learning time. We also understand that in colder weather young children are susceptible to coughs and colds, however, it is important that if children are well enough that they attend school.

Cold weather

Please be aware, children are provided opportunities to learn both inside and outside throughout the day. Therefore, as the weather gets colder please ensure children have warm, waterproof coats labelled with their name.

P.E.

We will have our physical education lessons on **Mondays**. Please ensure that your child/children have the following kit: Black tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, black trainers or plimsolls all clearly marked with their name. These can be kept in a bag on their peg.

Reading records

The children will take home a story book of their choosing and a reading book linked to the phonics teaching each week to provide valuable opportunities for you to read together at home. These will be changed at least once a week. Parents are asked to please make a note in their reading records every time they read at home. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record and book inside every day.

WOW Cards

We will be continuing to send home superhero WOW cards. These are for you to complete and return to class anytime your child does something to make you say wow, for example sleeping in their own bed, helping at home, counting to 100 or reading their book independently. Children will have the opportunity to share their wow cards with the class to celebrate their achievement. These will also contribute to the children's individual learning journal where we record your child's development and progress.

Reading Together Friday Mornings

Every Friday morning from 9.00 to 9.20 parents/carers are invited to come and read with us in the class. This is a lovely opportunity to share some of the books we have been looking at in class and see your child enjoy themselves at school.

Phonics workshop for parents

On Friday the 18th of September, following reading together, we will be holding a workshop for parents about the teaching and learning of phonics. In this session we aim to explain how phonics is used as a tool for teaching reading and writing and provide ideas of how you are able to support your child at home. Please see separate letter for more information.

Parent's lunch

On Wednesday the 23rd of January parents are invited to come and eat lunch with the children at 12.00.

Maths week and number day

From the 28th of January the school will be participating in 'maths week' in which pupils will have opportunities to take part in a variety of mathematical activities and workshops. On Friday the 1st of February it will be NSPCC number day and children are able to dress up for a £1 donation.

Class trip

During maths week, on Wednesday the 30th of January, the class will be walking to the shop in order to buy ingredients for making porridge. This will provide a valuable opportunity for maths development. We will require parent helpers to support us on this day, more details to be provided nearer the time.

Internet safety day

On Tuesday the 5th of February it is internet safety day and we will be taking this opportunity to highlight the importance of staying safe online.

Chinese New Year workshop

To celebrate Chinese New Year the school will be participating in a dragon dance workshop on Friday the 8th of February.

Please check the notice board in the reception playground for information and key dates

Term will finish on Friday the 15th of February and resume on Monday the 25th of February.

Our Learning This Term



This term our topic is **fairy tales** in which the children will have opportunities to listen to and act out a variety of traditional tales including: Jack and the beanstalk, goldilocks and the three bears, the three little pigs, little red riding hood, the gingerbread man and Cinderella. Children will be counting out magic beans, writing sorry letters from the big bad wolf, designing houses for the three little pigs, making gingerbread men, tasting porridge, planning a ball for Cinderella and lots of other exciting learning opportunities based around different fairy tale stories! Our classroom role play area has been transformed into a magical fairy tale cottage for the children to have a go at acting out the stories.

Within our topic we will be covering the 7 areas of the Early Years Curriculum as outlined below.

Prime Areas: these underpin development in all areas.

Personal, Social and Emotional

This includes: Making relationships, Self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour.

This term we will be continuing to develop friendships, negotiating and turn taking. Children will have opportunities to work collaboratively to build houses for the three little pigs and tell stories.

Physical Development

This includes: Moving and handling, health and self-care.

We will be using beanbags and balls to develop our throwing, catching and kicking skills. We will also be developing our letter formation and handwriting.

Communication and Language

This includes: Listening and attention, understanding and speaking.

Children will be listening to a variety of fairy tales which they will act out using puppets, and role play.

Specific areas: these are essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

Literacy

This includes: Reading, and writing (phonics is included alongside both these areas).

We will be listening to a variety of fairy tales and completing adult led and independent writing activities based around these, including writing letters from the big bad wolf and writing invitations to Cinderella's ball. The children will be writing facts we have learnt as well as stories and letters.

Mathematics

Includes: Number and shape, space and measure.

We will be learning how to count in 2s, 5s and 10s through song. We will also be learning to

estimate, find one more and one less and combine 2 groups together to complete simple addition.

Understanding the World

Understanding about people and communities, the world and technology.

We will be looking at different types of houses, making porridge and using Ipads.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials, Music, singing and dance, drama and being imaginative.

We will making fairy tale masks and puppets and creating junk model houses for the three little pigs.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please arrange to speak to Miss Furlong.

Thank you

Miss Furlong (class teacher), Miss Linton (learning support assistant), Miss Elia (Early years practitioner), Miss Nicole (student) and Miss Jones (volunteer reader)