



Year R Spring Term Newsletter 2023



Happy New Year to all of the children and their families – we hope you had a lovely Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your kind Christmas cards and gifts, we were really touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity – thank you! This half term the children's learning will be on the topic 'Tickets, Please!' and will focus on journeys and transport. After the half term break, the children will be learning a different topic entitled 'Come Outside'.



Literacy

'Tickets, Please!'

We shall be using a variety of short stories and non-fiction texts to help us explore this topic. The children will be developing their skills in sounding out words using their phonic knowledge to be able to write simple sentences. We will continue to retell and sequence a story using story maps. In Literacy lessons, we will be encouraging the children to listen and respond to stories and answer questions in full sentences. They will also be developing their understanding of journeys and transport through drama and role play.

'Come Outside'

We shall be using the stories 'Farmer Duck' and 'Oi Frog' to explore this topic. The children will now start to learn how to 'recycle a story' taking its narrative structure but changing some of its key elements, for example its setting or character types. This process will help the children to become independent story tellers and writers.

Maths

During the first half term the children will be exploring the composition of numbers 0-10, making pairs, combining two groups, number bonds to 10 and 3D shapes. They will also be introduced to different types of measure including weight, capacity, length and time.

In the second half of the term, the children will re-visit 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, addition and subtraction facts within 10, estimating, missing number problems, odd and even numbers and money values to 10p.

With all of our maths teaching we use concrete resources to give the children a 'hands on' experience. For example, with measure they will use balance scales, sand and digital timers, jugs of water, tape measures, rulers and metre sticks thus making the learning far more 'real' for them. We will continue to use the 'White Rose Maths' programme which lays solid foundations for the children and encourages their mathematical thinking through recognising patterns, reasoning and exploration.

Phonics

We will continue to use the phonics programme 'Essential Letters and Sounds' this term. Throughout the term we will be continuing to recap phase 2 and 3 phonics on a daily basis and how to apply them to our reading and writing. During the first part of the term the children will learn more Phase 3 phonemes and review phonemes already learned. The Spring Term ELS covers more than just the Phase 3 graphemes - we will start to introduce some challenge from Phase 4 (in the form of adjacent consonants eg - the word 'stop') alongside the Phase 3 teaching to extend children's sounding out and blending skills. We will also continue to teach and revise our 'Harder to Read and Spell Words' alongside phonemes.

Reception/Primary 1 Spring 1: Phase 3-4					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review week R:4 /oo/ <oo> (book)	/at/ <at> /ut/ <ur> /oo/ <oo> (food) /ot/ <ot>	/ow/ <ow> /oi/ <oi> /ear/ <ear> /air/ <air>	/ure/ <ure> /et/ <et> /oa/ <ow>	Assess and review week R:5	Review week R:6
	they, all, are		ball, tall	when, what	

Reception/Primary 1 Spring 2: Phase 3-4					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review week R:7	Review week R:8	Review week R:9	Review week R:10	Assess and review week R:11	Review week R:12
said, so, have	were, out, like	some, come, there	little, one, do	children, love	

RE

Our focus this half term is 'Creation - Who Cares for This Special World and Why?' We will be learning that Christians believe God created the world and that we are 'borrowing' the world from God and that we are all responsible for caring for our world and everything in it. After half term, we will be learning about the Easter story through the mediums of storytelling, art and drama, helping the children to gain an understanding and appreciation of this central aspect of the Christian faith. This term's Christian value is wisdom and after half term it will be hope.

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

This half term the children's PSED sessions will be supporting our topic 'Tickets, Please!' by learning all about different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing such as regular physical activity and being a safe pedestrian. After half term the children will be learning about healthy living thinking about what is a balanced diet? What do I need to do to look after my teeth? They will also be developing their independence in self-care, for example getting themselves dressed and undressed for PE.



Understanding the World

Using the topic 'Tickets, Please!' during the first half term the children will learn about emergency vehicles and what they look and sound like. We will learn about the fire service, police and medical practitioners; what their jobs are, how they help us and how they keep us safe. We shall be doing this through group discussions, watching informative short films, role playing, looking at non-fiction texts and exploring the uniforms worn and equipment used by each of these professions. After half term, to complement our topic, 'Come Outside' we shall be learning about the life cycles of certain animals and plants, where they can be found in the world and the type of environments they need in order to thrive. We shall then be planting sunflower seeds and once the seedlings are strong enough, the children will be able to bring them home to plant in their own gardens to watch them grow throughout the summer months.



Expressive Arts and Design

This half term the children will make a collage hot air balloon, role play fire fighters and sing transport songs.

After half term the children will create information posters about life cycles, design a pot for their sunflower seedling and use natural objects such as petals, grass and seeds to make collages.

As ever, the children will have free access to our 'Arts and Crafts' room during their daily child initiated sessions to create whatever they wish using the large selection of resources available to them.



Physical Development

The children will continue to have their P.E sessions on a Friday morning in the school hall. Please could your child bring in their kit each week, however, they don't need trainers at the moment as we will remain indoors until the summer term. The children will be learning how to control their body movements and how to use PE equipment appropriately and safely. After half term, they will be learning throwing and catching techniques as well as ball skills.



Uniform

Please adhere to the school's uniform policy which can be found on the website and ensure that all items are clearly named. We will play and learn in our outside area in all weather so please ensure your child brings a named coat, hat, scarf and gloves daily when the weather is colder. Please bring wellies in for our outdoor learning lessons.

Dates to remember:

Half Term - 13th-17th February 2023

Book Week W/C 20th February

St. David's Day - yellow shirt
Wednesday 1st March 2023

St. Patrick's Day - green shirt
Friday 17th March 2023

Parent and Carer Evenings
Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th,
Thursday 30th March

Easter Service Christ Church
Friday 31st March 2023 - 9.30am

Reading

Please continue to read regularly at home with your child as this is very important for the development of their reading and writing skills. Please keep updating your reading record book and ensure they are signed regularly. Your child is read with on a 1:1 basis each week and engages in reading activities on a daily basis during their phonics and literacy sessions.

Our aim is to now hear your child read twice a week. We will change the reading books during the first half of the week. Your child will also be read with on the same two days each week. We have also set a weekly E-Book on Oxford Owl for you to read with your child.

We have provided a new set of phoneme cards and Harder to Read and Spell words. All of these will be covered over the course of this term. Although optional, it would be great if your child could practice these as much as they can, even 5 minutes a day makes such an impact! We will also continue to set pages of revision for your child to complete at home from their phonics workbook. This is completely optional.

Parents Evenings - Please note that Reception's Parents Evening dates will be slightly different to the rest of the schools in order for both teachers to attend.

Please always feel able to contact us if you have any queries or concerns and we can get together to talk it through; you can write me a note in the home contact book or email us through the school office, alternatively you can catch us on the school playground before and after school. We are greatly looking forward to another term of fun, learning and adventures with your amazing children!

Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team

