

Dear EYFS parents and Carers,

It is so lovely to have all the children back together again! Thank you so much for all your support during the lockdown period when many children were learning from home. Throughout March we have been re-establishing routines and expectations; assessing where children are with their learning and having fun as a class again. It has been really useful speaking to you in parents' evenings over the last two weeks and discussing the progress they have made.

Phonics and Reading

Throughout this term we have been consolidating phase 3 sounds and tricky words. This week we are sending home a sheet containing any phase 3 sounds or tricky words that your child is still finding hard to recognise and read. Please try to practise these over Easter as next term we will be introducing more new learning. If your child has several sounds/words to consolidate start by just practising 3 and add in a new one each day as they remember more. The focus for phonics in the summer term is introducing the phase 4 tricky words (see attachment) and phase 4 phonics which is blending and segmenting adjacent consonants. For example: 'st' in 'stop', 'nt' in 'went', 'str' in 'strong'. These are not new sounds but are consonant sounds very close together which can be tricky to identify.

Your child's book bag should contain: a yellow reading record; a bag of tricky words; a fully decodable phonics book for your child to read; a sharing book for you to read to your child and enjoy together. Please write in the yellow reading record every time your child reads to you. Ideally, every child will practise reading daily at home. We recommend reading a book at least 3 times as this helps build fluency and comprehension skills. Please make sure that your child's book bag comes to school every day and contains the four items listed above. Please do not put water bottles in book bags as leaks and condensation damages books. Thank you. <https://youtu.be/ahpQf1dtikQ>

Maths

This term we have been really focussing on number bonds and how to make different numbers to ten. By the end of Reception, as a minimum, we want children to be able to recall all number bonds to 5 and some to ten and be able to work out all bonds within 10 (i.e. to 6,7,8 and 9). Here are some suggestions for games you can play at home to support your child this Easter.

- Hiding objects – collect 5 objects eg cars, dolls, buttons. Ask your child to shut their eyes while you hide some under a cloth. The child open their eyes and tells you how many they can see. They then have to work out how many must be hiding, using their knowledge of number bonds to help them. If they need support they could use fingers or other objects to help them **see** the maths. "How do you know that 1 is hiding?" "I know because 4 and 1 makes 5." When your child is confident with 5 objects try 10, and then try 6,7,8 or 9. You can see an example of the game here: <https://youtu.be/8hkip2H48k8>
- Race to 10 – A 2 player game. Write numbers 1-10 in a line. This could be on paper or in chalk on the floor. Each player has a counter or could stand on the number. The aim of the game is to land on number 10 exactly. Roll the dice. Move forward that many jumps. Ask children to say how many do they need to throw to land on ten. When they roll ask them if that was too low, just right or too many. If you are on six and roll a five you will count forward to ten but then go back one. "How many do you need to roll to win?" "I am on 9 so I need to roll 1 to win because 9 and 1 make 10." You can see an example of the game here in lesson 1 The Trellis Track game: <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years/spring-consolidation-week-3/>

- Treasure hunt – hide a number of objects within 10 around the house/garden (Easter eggs?). Tell your child how many are hidden. As they find the objects, talk to them about how many they have already found and how many are left to find. “There are 6 balloons altogether. I have found 4 so I know there are 2 more left because 4 and 2 make 6.”

Please see the Term 4 EYFS page on the website for further ideas and resources to support your child’s learning in reading, writing (including letter formation) and maths.

Forest School

Reception children will be having weekly forest school in Term 6. However, we would still like all children to keep a pair of wellies in school as this enables them to access the mud kitchen in our outdoor provision.

P.E.

P.E. will continue on the same days as this term. Tuesday – Ruby; Wednesday – Jade; Thursday – Opal. Children come to school in comfortable sports clothes. No need to bring in uniform to change into.

Resources

Using a rich range of resources in our learning environment engages the children and extends their learning. Next term we are going to be reading about seeds, planting and growing and we want to explore this practically in school. We would welcome donations of any of the following items:

- child appropriate gardening/tools/gloves/equipment
- top soil
- compost
- seeds – particularly sunflower seeds
- wooden pestles and mortars (for potion making)
- play sand for sand pit (not builders)
- outdoor play/pe resources – bean bags, soft balls, rackets, targets, stilts on strings
- small world characters – playmobil size, farm animals, ponies, pets, mythical creatures, anything that comes in a set/collection can provide opportunities for imaginative play, storytelling and role playing

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. We hope you have a restful Easter. See you in term 5!

Best wishes,

The EYFS team