



The Little Explorers

Spring Newsletter/Terms 5 & 6

Mrs Croston, Mrs Taylor & Miss Westwick

Welcome back



It's hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through the academic year already! We still have so much to pack into the coming terms. We hope that you have enjoyed the Easter break and that everyone is ready to launch themselves into the penultimate term in Foundation. A reminder that as the weather gets warmer and sunnier your child will need to have a hat to wear outside and also sun cream is a must in hotter, sunnier weather.

It's good to talk...



We were very impressed with the way the children took to the WOW words last term. It's fabulous to hear them using these words in their normal conversation. Thank you for the positive responses from parents during parent/teacher meetings about the WOW words and how much they enjoyed them at home. This will continue as a focus for the rest of the year. Remember to send in a WOW voucher if your child uses one spontaneously. A list of those covered so far is on the website. As well as the WOW words we are continuing to do the daily POWWOW's. We are encouraging the children to speak in complete sentences as this will help with writing.

Snack time



Milk and water will continue to be provided by us and we would ask that all containers sent containing fruit are named.

Our Curriculum



We will start Term 5 by continuing the theme started at the end of last term 'Mary Mary quite contrary'. This was based on a selection of things that the children were interested in such as Spring, flowers & lifecycles. The children are very excited by the tadpoles! We are also awaiting the arrival of some caterpillars too! Term 6 will cover The Olympics as this is a whole school theme to take us up to the end of the summer term. We are currently in the process of organising a class trip to a farm - watch this space for a letter in the coming weeks.

Problem solving, Reasoning about Numeracy

These skills run alongside our theme work. This will include counting, matching numbers to objects, ordering numerals, recognising numbers, exploring shape, space and beginning to work on simple adding and subtracting sets of objects, as well as solving practical problems involving addition and subtraction. The children will also be collecting data linked to our topic.

Maths Challenge

The children will continue to bring home a maths challenge, these activities will help your child see maths as 'fun'. You can repeat the activity as many times as your child likes. We would ask that any written work or discussions are recorded and returned to school so that it can be shared with peers. Also this will add to your child's continued learning journey. (A photograph of your child doing the activity would be fantastic, if appropriate).

The challenge will be stuck in their book and sent home on Wednesday and please return the following Monday. Thank you.

Communication, Language & Literacy

We will be really pushing forward with learning new sounds for reading and writing this term and would ask that you check the book tags on the reading record as a guide to the sounds that we are focusing on. These may not change weekly as sometimes it takes a little longer to become secure with them. We are continuing to encourage children to write independently and would ask that you please give opportunities for this at home too.

Parent's Notice Board



Your board for your information is located in the classroom just above the coat pegs. Please look regularly to ensure that you are up to date. It is here that you will find the blank WOW vouchers, recent letters, current WOW words, information on any materials or help that we might need and general information about our class. **This board is for you so please let us know if there is anything you feel should be included as we welcoming your feedback in this area.**

School Website



If you have internet access the school website is a must for your 'favourites'. As well as general school information, our pages on the school website will be updated regularly with news and photographs of our exciting learning journey together. Please make it a weekly visit when you surf the web and don't forget the online guest book is there for your comments.

At the end of the day



We would be grateful if you would wait for your child ***inside*** the Foundation Stage garden at the end of the day **only**. If your child is going to be collected from school by a childminder, grandparent or other friend/relative we would need to know in the morning.

PE Days



The children will have PE on Tuesday morning with Mrs Croston and Wednesday morning with Mrs Wallace. This term your child will be working basic ball skills, team games and lots of practising for the sports day. Please ensure that your child has t-shirt, shorts/jogging bottoms, plimsolls and trainers for outside. It is essential that all items are clearly named.

Reading with your child

Can we please remind you that it is very important that you child has their book bag in school every day. Please encourage your child to point to the words and sound out the words, using their sound knowledge and use the pictures in the text to help them. As we are sure you are aware, some words need to be learnt, these words are called tricky words, e.g the, and, etc. We continue to focus on these tricky words in the classroom.

The High Frequency Lists are proving popular, with many children already learning words on list 4! Please be patient if your child isn't moving on as quickly as others in the class. It is a challenge not a race and some find the challenge takes longer than others. To help your child practise little and often and make sure that when you practise you change the order around. Many children say that they know them and are disappointed when tested that they don't. This is due to them learning in the order on the sheet, we test the words randomly as this is how they will meet them in texts!

The children are very excited about sharing what they have been learning in the class assembly on 29th May at 9.10am.