



The Little Explorers

Spring Term Newsletter

Mrs Croston, Mrs Taylor, Miss McGowan, Mrs Mellin
and Mrs Champness



Welcome to 2017

We hope that the first two terms of school life have been a very positive experience for you and your child. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year ahead. The children have been superstars and have coped extremely well with a very busy start to the academic year. We are all very excited about the coming terms and hope that you will continue to support us in any way you can with your child's early education.



It's good to talk...

During the Spring Term the children will be engaging in lots of speaking and listening activities that will encourage the children to express themselves clearly. These activities are precursors to "Ready Steady Write" higher up in the school and are under the umbrella of "The Big Talk". This is organised through daily activities such as; Make Believe Monday, Tricky Tuesday, Wonder Why Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Fish for a Wish Friday. We will also have weekly WOW words with which we aim to widen your child's vocabulary (look for display in the classroom).

We will be encouraging the children to talk in full sentences, in order to then progress to writing sentences. Please encourage your child as much as possible to engage with writing at home, this could be shopping lists, labelling, writing birthday cards etc.



Our Curriculum

In the first half of the Spring Term the learning will take place around the theme of "Will You Read Me a Story". We will be exploring classic fairy tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Through these we will explore story structure and be writing postcards, labels and simple sentences about the texts.

In PSHCE the children will understand that everyone is good at something and that you have to work hard and practise in order to achieve a goal. In RE the children will continue to learn about festivals and celebrations from around the world including Chinese and Persian New Year, Holi and Easter (and signs of Spring). We will also observe the children carefully to learn about what interests them. This will help inform our planning of future themes to ensure that we offer a learning journey that fascinates them!

For our Little Explorers **creative development** there will be weekly music sessions with Miss Soden and sessions with Mrs Mellin. They will also have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities such as painting, printing using a range of equipment and modelling with play dough, clay and plasticine. We will also continue to offer regular cooking sessions - which have already proved to be a big success with the children! If you are available to help with any of these sessions please let us know.

Maths

In maths we will concentrate on being able to recite numbers to 20 and recognise them out of sequence. We will introduce ordinal numbers, count actions and sounds, order numerals to at least 10/20 and beyond, count up to 20 objects, say the next number (without counting from 1), add 1 and 2 to any number, read the corresponding addition and begin to sort and describe 2D shapes and 3D shapes. It is extremely important that you continue to practise counting at home - count everything! This will help the children become much more accurate. Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on teen numbers (knowing that the number 12 is 1 ten and 2 units - not a 1 and a 2).

$$10 + 2 = 12$$

Communication, Language and Literacy

The daily phonic sessions continue to allow the children to build on letter and sound knowledge. As well as this, children's development and interest in books and stories will be promoted through a variety of books (both fiction and non-fiction), shared stories both read and told and rhymes. We will be providing storytelling sessions to help with understanding of story structure and embed well known stories and sending home High Frequency words for your child to learn, don't worry, these will only be sent a couple at a time! We are beginning to offer more formal handwriting sessions each week and for those who still need it extra Finger Gym exercises to help build pencil control.



Homework

We will continue to send homework out every fortnight which is related to the class work. They really enjoy sharing it back in class and it is delightful to see such wonderful homework which the children are extremely proud of.

Notices for parents

We will continue to write a brief outline of the day on the board outside of the Year 2 class. Please just ask if you need any clarification of anything we have written.

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.



PE Days

The children will continue to have PE on Monday morning or afternoon with Mrs Croston and Wednesday morning with Mr Thomas. This term your child will be working on tag Rugby and dance skills to enhance their physical development. Please ensure that your child has t-shirt, shorts/jogging bottoms and plimsolls. It is essential that all items are clearly named. Can we remind you about the house team coloured t shirt - the children have been very enthusiastic about wearing them and they do look great!! (Available at the school office for £4.00). Please can you ensure that your child's plimsolls are the correct size, and velcro is still intact. Thanks

Reading with your child

Can we please remind you that it is very important that your child has their book bag in school every day. As you are aware the children will be bringing home books to read. 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, eg the, and, etc. We have already started learning tricky words and this will continue with new words being added. We would be very

grateful if you could write in your child's reading record, as this is the home/school link and it is important to see how they are getting on with reading at home. Also all children will be allocated a Bug Club log in to enable them to access books online to support their reading in the near future.

Finally...

We will be offering parent sessions in the coming terms, where you can spend the morning to get a feel for what we do, for either a morning or afternoon session in Term 3 or 4. A letter will be coming home soon with details. We very much look forward to seeing you in the classroom

Thank you for your continued support.