



Foundation News

Spring 2019

Welcome back to the Spring term, I hope you all had a lovely break.

The children are continuing to amaze us with their fantastic, child-initiated learning and are all making wonderful progress!

We are continuing to work in a workshop style environment indoors and outside. Nothing is set out on the tables. The children select what they want to do in each area. We do this because high level involvement occurs most often when children are able to pursue their own interests in an enabling environment. When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring- when the brain is at its most active. The principle is that resources are accessible to the children and they are varied, open-ended and high quality. This gives children the opportunity to select resources to support their chosen activity. The children initiate their own learning and the adults support and guide them to extend their learning opportunities.

We are very fortunate to have had a wood work bench made for our outside area. We will begin working with real tools including saws, hammers and nails next week so our children will be able to experience some real woodworking!

Mrs Hague is also excited to get back into her gardening. We have had some trees donated that we have already started to plant and we have already started planting our own vegetables in our gardening area.

All children's work will be presented in their "learning journey" folders. These folders will be accessible at all times, so the children are able to view and share their learning with yourselves as it happens.

When it is your child's "focus" week, we will confirm on the Friday before. This will give you the opportunity to note down anything you would like to tell us about your child, and if there is anything specific you would like us to work on with them. We value the knowledge and understanding you have of your child and would really appreciate it if you would share this with us so that together we can plan activities to meet your child's needs. We also ask if you could send in some pictures (no more than 15) of your child/family enjoying activities out of school.

We are teaching phonics through the Read, Write Inc, phonics programme as a daily session. The children are put into groups relating to their phonics ability. Assessment will take place regularly and will inform how the groups are structured. Groups are also changed regularly. If you would like any more information about the programme please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are continuing to send out reading books for the children to read to you. Not all these books match the order in which we teach the phonics programme, so please be understanding that your child may find some more difficult than others. Inside their book bags will be a reading journal. We ask that you could please keep this updated and in their book bags- even if it is just a comment to say they have read the book.

We have now sent out our Read Write Inc. packs. Some include flashcards and speed sounds that your child may need more practice with, and some include storybooks.

The flashcards are just to help your child with blending, before they move on to the books. They can be made into games and once the children are familiar with these sounds and words they will be provided with storybooks.

The storybooks are much more tailored to your child's reading needs. They will have read these books previously in class so should appear much more confident with these.

Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**.

Read, Write, Inc. packs will be changed every other **Thursday**.

Proud as Peacocks

We not only like to celebrate our children's achievements in school, but also outside of school. Our "Proud as Peacocks" display allows us to display these achievements, so we would love your input. Children can earn their feathers by you sharing their special moments, when you feel particularly proud of something they can do or something that makes you just go.. "That's my child!"

Please feel free to tell us about these achievements so we can add them to our display.

Our display board is looking rather bare so it would be great to get it filled up with the children's proud moments.

Lunch

The menu for the following week will be stuck on the door in the morning. Please could you look at the menu and help your child choose their dinner before they enter the classroom. Please direct them to Miss Cooper or the member of staff on the carpet to let them know what they would like for their dinner that day. Sandwich choices: ham, cheese, tuna and egg.

PE

Our PE days this half term will be **Friday**. Please could you make sure your child has a fully labelled kit including: white t-shirt, black shorts, trainers or pumps, as well as an outdoor kit in case we have to go outside.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March

Don't forget to come dressed up as your favourite book character!

If you have any queries, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to me in a morning or after school. I will keep you all updated with what's going on in the classroom regularly on Class Dojo, and you are also welcome to message me on there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Cooper, Mrs Hague Mrs Mapplebeck