



Reception Curriculum Newsletter **Spring Term (First Half) 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. The children look refreshed, which is great as we have a busy term of learning and activities ahead of us.

Thankyou to all of those parents who have contributed to their child's learning journal by adding an observation onto Tapestry. We really enjoy seeing and hearing what the children have been up to with you at home, and the children enjoy sharing their learning and achievements with us.

Please ensure that you continue to read with your child at home every day and record this in their reading diary by either making comments about how your child has found reading the book or initialling/signing that they have read on a particular day. You may want to comment on whether your child enjoyed the book, if they found it easy or difficult, or use it as an opportunity to ask your child's class teacher a question. Please also continue to support your child to develop their comprehension and inference skills by asking them questions about the book that they have read. We count the children's weekly reads every Friday, and if they have read 5 times or more, they are entered into our weekly raffle. We also award a 'Reader of the Week' certificate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Homework

Your child has been given a Letterjoin login. Please do support them to access this at home, as it really does help hugely with their letter formation. They also have a Numbots login. This is an extra resource that your child can use to support them with their maths development. Please have a look at this and navigate yourself around the site. If you have any problems or questions regarding Letterjoin or Numbots, please let us know.

Learning Themes

Our aim is to make sure that your child's learning experiences are exciting and enjoyable by delivering a creative and stimulating curriculum that is based on the skills highlighted in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. All learning is linked to the children's interests and will also be linked to an overall theme. This half-term, the children will be looking at dinosaurs, the Ice Age and 'People who help us'. If you have a job in which you help the public and are willing to come into school and deliver a brief talk to the children about your role, then please do let us know – we would be very grateful!

Supporting Your Child at Home

Reading

Frequently sharing books with your child and talking about the main characters and sequence of events will support your child to develop their comprehension skills. Supporting your child to read from left to right, encouraging them to point to each word as they read, using the picture if they get stuck on a word, using the words they know already to help them, segmenting and blending the phonemes in cvc words and reading repeated words throughout the book, will all help your child to improve with their reading skills.

Mathematics

Using numbers in everyday contexts, such as recognising house numbers, counting the number of stairs climbed when going to bed at night and counting the number of shoes found on the shoe rack at home, will enable your child to practise and apply their mathematical skills in real life contexts. Incorporating mathematics and mathematical vocabulary into everyday routines and activities, e.g. tidy up time and mealtimes, provide opportunities for conversations about counting, comparing, time and sharing. Playing board games, particularly with linear, numbered, equal-sized spaces can also be useful for the development of early number skills.

Reminders

P.E.

The children will be having P.E. on Friday afternoons throughout this half term. Please ensure that you provide a fully named P.E. kit that is suitable for outdoor P.E. lessons, as P.E. will sometimes be outside. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that their earrings are removed on P.E. days for health and safety reasons. Long hair should always be tied up whilst the children are at school and especially during P.E. lessons.

Snack Time

All of the children in Reception are given either fresh fruit or vegetables for a healthy snack every day and this initiative is funded by the government. Milk is also provided free of charge up until your child's fifth birthday.

Water Bottles

Children need to bring a named water bottle to school every day, and this can be used throughout the day. Please can this be placed on the trolley each morning, rather than stored in book bags, as we have seen many books ruined by leaking water bottles. Please also ensure that the bottles only contain plain water and not juice or squash.

Book Bags

Please ensure that your child brings their book bag into school with them every day. It is very useful to have the book bag in school so that letters, reading books and anything that the children make can be sent home easily.

Communication

We welcome you to discuss your child, their progress or any concerns you may have. We might not be able to talk to you straight away, but we will endeavour to speak to you as soon as possible. You can leave a message with the school office via telephone or send an e-mail to the school office who will forward it onto me.

Dates For Your Diaries

Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Easter Break: Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Communication and Language</p> <p>Children will continue to sit quietly during whole class and smaller group activities. Children will be given the chance to listen and respond to ideas expressed by others. In their role-play, children will use talk to imagine and recreate different roles. They will be given the chance to re-tell stories that they have learnt and act these out using puppets in the role-play area.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Development</p> <p>Children will gain confidence in all areas of physical development, including using scissors and other one-handed tools safely. They will be concentrating on developing good pencil grip and control. Children will develop their spatial awareness during PE lessons. They will also explore moving in a variety of different ways using a combination of small, big, high and low movements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>Children will continue to think about our classroom rules and build upon the friendships made within the classes. They will be focusing on their own actions and the feelings of other children. In circle time, the children will be identifying goals and challenges, learning how to overcome obstacles and the importance of perseverance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literacy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p>Children will take part in weekly reading sessions with their class teacher. As a whole class, we will be reading lots of stories together, some that link with our topic and others for our enjoyment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <p>We will be continuing to write simple words and starting to focus on how we form sentences when writing, using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop at the end. Children will be encouraged to form their letters correctly using a pre-cursive script.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phonics</p> <p>In our daily phonics lessons, we will continue to learn new phonemes and practise segmenting and blending to read and spell words.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number</p> <p>Children will be introduced to the concept of zero. They will also be comparing numbers up to 5 and exploring the composition of these, e.g. $3 + 2 = 5$ and $6 - 1 = 5$.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Numerical Patterns</p> <p>Children will learn the names of 2D shapes and use them to build models. They will describe the properties of each shape and select, rotate and manipulate them, to develop their spatial reasoning skills. Children will also be using their knowledge of number to explore length, height and time.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding the World</p> <p>Children will talk about their families, special times and celebrations. They will explore the world around them including looking at the local environment. Children will comment on images of familiar situations and landscapes in the past, for example, thinking about how St. Neots has changed since the time of the dinosaurs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Using different media and materials, children will explore colour, shape and size. They will engage in different role-play scenarios, such as taking on the role of a palaeontologist in the Dinosaur Museum. Children will also take part in singing and music making sessions where they will be able to make up their own songs and rhythms.</p>