



Reception Spring Term
1st Half 2024

Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year 2024! We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break with your families. Our learning theme for this half term will be 'Amazing Animals'. This letter is to share with you just some of the lovely things we will be doing in school across the different areas of learning and important information to help you support your child.

Supporting learning at home.

There are a number of ways that you can help at home:

Phonics and handwriting- During the first week in school, we will be consolidating the phonemes we have already taught the children. From Week 2 in school (15.1.24) we will begin the Spring Term 'Little Wandle' phonics learning, which introduces 4 new 'Phase 3' digraphs each week (two letters making one sound eg 'oa' in b-oa-t). The children will bring home new pink home learning books as they fill their first ones. Please keep their first pink book at home when it is full, but still use it to consolidate learning, especially during the next few weeks as there is often dip in recall over a holiday period. When writing at home, please continue to encourage your child to create words with the sounds that we have introduced rather than showing them the correct spelling. We also encourage the children to form their letters correctly so any reinforcement of this at home would be beneficial. We teach the formation of letters in letter families. Please refer to our attached handwriting guides which can also be found on the 'Reception Spring 1' page of our website. A good pencil grip is essential in writing. If your child still finds this challenging, the attached 'Nip, Flip and Grip' method is a useful way of supporting how children can pick up a writing tool. We have worked closely with the children to help them develop their fine motor skills to help them with writing. It would help your child if you could continue activities to support them at home. The children are excited and already motivated to get their writing on our new 'Wow Work' display in class.

Tricky words – Thank you for all your hard work at home with the 'Tricky Words'. The children have been brilliant learning these words but still need to practise to embed their knowledge. We will be sending home the next Tricky Words this half term.

Reading books – These will continue to be changed on a Monday and Friday each week. Please can you keep the children's reading books and reading records in their book bags at all times. Please record in the diary when you have listened to your child read marking if the book is complete for changing. If your child finishes their school reading book before book change, ask them questions about what they have read or share a book of their choice from home, school or the local library. Encourage a love of stories and the characters that they discover.

Education City – We are very fortunate to have a new learning platform available in school to support curriculum learning online at home. Please look out for a letter in your child's book bag with their Education City log in details. In Reception, we will be uploading **optional** Maths and Phonics activities to your child's platform area which are linked to learning going on in school each week. Your child is also free to explore other areas of the EYFS Education City platform which includes lots of fun games and activities.

Library books – These will be changed every Wednesday.

Forest School – This will pause for this half term and start again after February half term. If you do have extra school wellies, we welcome you to leave them in school for if and when it snows etc.

Uniform – As it is the start of a new term, please make sure all items of uniform and PE kit are labelled and that labels haven't come off. We have already struggled with locating names in jumpers in the first week of school!

P.E. – Please note our PE slots this term are on Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure your child has the full PE Kit. This term we are in the hall for both our sessions. Children not wearing the appropriate clothing will not participate for their own safety. Children will come into school in their school uniform and will change into their P.E. kit as part of the lesson. P.E. kits will remain in school and will be sent home half termly to wash or sooner if required.

Parent/ Carer Requests:

Special Places – our topic in RE this half term is ‘Special Places’. Please can you send in a picture/photograph (either in their book bag or on Tapestry) of a place that is special to your child for them to talk about. This could be their bedroom, somewhere in the garden, a place of worship, the park or anywhere they feel is special to them.

Animals - As part of our learning about animals we are learning the names of animals and their young.

Wow moments – Please remember to share Wow moments with us about your child on our Tapestry shared platform.

Junk modelling resources – We would be grateful of clean junk for the children to make wonderful creations this term. We need small cardboard boxes, egg boxes, tubes (not toilet rolls please!) and small interesting shaped packaging. ***As we are very limited for space, please carefully undo and flatpack boxes (eg cereal boxes etc.) so we can store them flat and reshape them inside out with masking tape at school.*** Small embellishments such as milk caps would also be gratefully received, but please make sure they have been washed in hot soapy water.

Important Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 24th January – ZooLab school visit for Reception and Pre-School children. Please see separate letter to follow.

Tuesday 30th January – 2.30pm Stay and Play – Parents are invited to come in and join us in our classroom until the end of the school day. Younger siblings are welcome, however, please leave buggies under the EYFS canopy outside. Enter through the Reception back door – there will be a signing in and out sheet outside our classroom.

Tuesday 6th February - Parents meetings. **Please note that this date differs to other classes in the school**

Wednesday 7th February – Parents meetings.

Friday 9th February – Children break up for Half Term.

Monday 19th February – Children return to school.

If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hurlock and the Reception Team

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



To label and talk about own and others' emotions using our 'Zones of Regulation'. Identify how others feel and respond appropriately. Learn to respond to more complex instructions in small groups. To be able to set and complete a challenge independently, persisting when things become difficult. Learn and talk about ways to keep healthy including a focus on dental hygiene and keeping our bodies healthy to support our learning.

Communication and Language



Pupils will become more confident in responding to discussions with comments and questions. They will continue to listen in whole school Collective Worship and be able to reflect and comment on what they have heard. We will be encouraging talk and conversation through small world, role play, challenges and story telling to help them use talk in different ways, to develop thinking, to play with others and express their own ideas. We will encourage them to talk about ways they can improve their creations/ work and be able to share and demonstrate pride in their achievements.

Physical Development



FINE MOTOR – To continue to form letters correctly and with increasing accuracy. Handle tools, objects and construction materials with increasing control e.g. split pins and cutting curved lines.

GROSS MOTOR – Ball skills – aiming, pushing, throwing, patting, rolling. Dance and gymnastics skills. Climbing on the outdoor equipment and use of bikes. In Yoga – use of core muscle strength to achieve a good posture at a table or sitting on the floor.

Literacy



Focus on Phase 3 phonics and becoming more confident blending and segment CVC, CVCC, CCVC words for reading and writing. Introducing more tricky words. Retelling favourite stories in their own words including recently introduced vocabulary. Use capital letters for names and beginning of sentences. Recognise finger spaces and basic punctuation when reading and writing sentences. Completing forms in role play, create storyboards for stories and create animal fact files from shared reading of non-fiction texts.

Maths



Continue joining in with counting rhymes and songs. Count up to 15 objects. One more/ one less. Ordering numbers within 15. Exploring addition as counting on and subtraction as take away. Introduce part-part-whole model to make an amount up to 10. Describe and sort 2D and 3D shapes. Use mathematical language to talk about shape and size. Continue to recall the days of the week and seasons. Sequence daily events and weekly events for home and school. Measuring length using non standard units eg pencils, sticks etc

R.E.



Which places are special and why? Talk about somewhere that is special to them any why. Identify some significant features of sacred places. Talk about the things that are special and valued in a place of worship. Create a shared space that is special to them.

Understanding the World



Look closely at seasonal changes into Winter– what changes can they see to the natural environment? Look at the importance of maps and create our own maps of Barford. Compare animals from different environments. How can we take care of animals? Talk about important members of our society and talk about their jobs and how they help us. Create shadow puppets and Chinese lanterns for Chinese New Year. Use instruments to compose their own music and play a range of percussion instruments.

Expressive Arts and Design



Join in with songs using Makaton signs when appropriate. Learn how to move to a beat and express emotions through music. Mix colours for a desired effect when painting or creating models. Join in with role play games using small world and constructing areas to support their learning. Build models using junk modelling equipment and be able to talk about their creation. Look closely at different techniques for joining materials. Build and design homes for hibernating animals.