



Reception Spring Term
2nd Half

Curriculum Letter

February 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a wonderful half term break with your families. Our learning theme for this half term will be 'Come Outside' which as it suggests will take us out and about more as the weather improves. 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.

Supporting learning at home:

The children's learning experiences are so much richer when there are solid links between home life and school. We are so grateful for the ways you take on our new learning initiatives at home and support your children – thank you.

Our Super Learning Powers This term our learning pets will be school based so that we can use them to develop the children's understanding of qualities needed to be good learners. They will start going home again in the Summer Term, so don't worry if your child is still waiting to look after a couple!

Phonics - We will continue to share with you the sounds as we introduce them to the children. Please continue to encourage your child to create words with the sounds that we have introduced. We are also continuing to encourage the children to form their letters correctly so any reinforcement of this at home would be beneficial and to segment words for spelling. Old pink phonics books can remain at home to avoid your child's bag becoming too full.

Tricky words – Thank you for all your hard work at home with our Phase 3 Tricky Words. The children need regular 'little and often' sight of them to embed them as words that they just know as they cannot be sounded out phonetically. Please practise them as a word rather than trying to segment them into phonemes.

Fine Motor – 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. Please continue to encourage your child to cut straight slits or curved lines, build with Duplo or Lego, use pegs to hang up washing on an airer and play with Playdough. Draw with Rob at [#DrawWithRob — Rob Biddulph](#) is a really good website where author/illustrator Rob Biddolph has created a series of drawing tutorials for his cartoon like book characters. We will look at this site in class, and you may wish to look at it to support drawing and following visual instructions at home. Please send in your child's Draw with Rob creations!

Reading books – These will continue to be changed on a **Monday** and **Friday** each week. Please can you keep your child's reading books and reading records in their book bags. Please record in the diary when you have listened to your child read. 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.

We are starting up Forest School again from Week 2 This will take place weekly on a **Thursday**. Children should come to school dressed in their school top and jumper, wearing school trousers, leggings or tracksuit bottoms to keep warm and protect themselves. Please can the children come to school in their school shoes. Appropriate clothing with wellies, waterproofs and warm gloves and hats are required during the continued cold weather. They will change into wellies to go down to Forest school. Unfortunately, children not wearing the appropriate clothing (long trousers) will not participate for their own safety.

P.E. - The children will continue to have games on Mondays and music and dance on Wednesdays. 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:

Junk modelling resources – You have been wonderful at sending in lots of resources for our junk modelling. We are well stocked at present, however we will be needing lots of kitchen roll tubes at the start of the summer term, so please start collecting these!

Our next Stay and Play/Learning Share will be on Tuesday 19th March at 2.45pm. As always, if this date is not suitable for you, please let us know and we will try and accommodate another mutually convenient date for you to view your child's learning after school.

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

Mrs Hurlock & the Reception Team

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



To label and talk about own and others' emotions. 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.

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 'Story Club'; small world, role play, challenges and story telling to help the children 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 Yoga - using core muscle strength to achieve a good posture at a table or sitting on the floor.

Climbing on the outdoor equipment and use of bikes.

Literacy



Children will be retelling favourite fairytale stories in their own words including recently introduced vocabulary. Following the **Little Wandle** phonics scheme the children will become more confident blending and segmenting CVC words using this knowledge to support reading of polysyllabic (longer) words like 'laptop' and 'fantastic'. The skill of chunking into syllables will also support children in their writing of longer words. We will also be introducing more tricky words as well as revising those already taught.

Maths



Children will continue joining in with counting rhymes and songs extending the number sequence beyond 20. Count up to 15 objects. One more/ one less/fewer. 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

R.E.



Our topic is 'Where do we belong?' where we will: re-tell religious stories making connections with personal experiences; share and record occasions when things have happened in our lives that made us feel special; recall simply what happens at a traditional Christian infant baptism and dedication; and recall simply what happens when a baby is welcomed into Islam.

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. Talk about important members of our society and talk about their jobs and how they help us. Discover foods and where they come from, through stories and by growing seeds. Use instruments to compose their own musical stories and play a range of percussion instruments.

Expressive Arts and Design



Join in with songs using Makaton signs when appropriate. Mix colours for a desired effect when painting or creating models. To look at the work of the artists Vincent Van Gogh and Andy Goldsworthy. 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. Explore expressive dance through music and stories.