



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing half term, and that you have made some great memories with your children. Thank you so much for your support of your children in their home learning. The Phonics results show that every child is well on their way to considering themselves a reader. As our thoughts turn towards Spring and the new life that that brings, not just in the fields, but I do believe within our own class this year, we begin to think about where animals, and our food comes from. So if your child questions where their baked beans originated I apologise in advance!

This half term our learning is looking even more exciting and we are keen for you to be involved in every way! Friday Family Story Time will continue and I hope to see you there if your other commitments allow for this. The theme for our half term is Where food comes from and so we will be exploring this in some detail, we will also have a Role Play café, and even make some Rot Pots (so if you have any 2 litre lemonade/coke type bottles free we will be saving them up so that every child can make one, **all donations gratefully received** or I will have no teeth left by Easter!

In Communication and Language (CL) we are thinking about specific vocabulary linked with our theme which is “I wonder where our food comes from?” as well as continuing to use talk for clarifying our thinking and to begin to feed this into writing. We will still be playing games that help us to make sense of unfamiliar objects and experiences. We will be sharing lots of stories linked to our theme and also ones that simply look too good not to snuggle up and read.

In Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) we are focusing on friendships and what being a good friend looks like, as well as helping those around us. We will also focus on making good choices, and taking care of our environment..... as well as welcoming new babies into our sibling fold!

In Physical development (PD) we will continue to give our fine motors skills a real work out by way of Funky Fingers activities mid-morning. We will be threading, cutting, playing with playdough and also focusing holding things like cutlery in our cafe, as well as holding pencils and paint brushes etc in the most effective way. During our PE sessions that support the development of our gross motor skills, we will be back to Forest School on Wednesday afternoons, and playing games with Miss Allen on Fridays. In our outdoor area we will continue climbing and exploring different ways of moving as well as using the environment to support our more formal learning times. Our PE day is now just on Friday (and so Ms Ludlam will not be in her PE kit at all, for those of you that watch out for this sign, but it does not mean that I am not around!). ON PE days your child should wear their PE uniform all day, have long hair tied back, and they should not have any earrings in. If your child has difficulties with PE Kits please come and speak with us and we will work out the best way forward together. Please remember that we are outside every day in our general school day so if the weather looks ‘iffy’ please ensure your child has a coat, although we hope these will soon not be needed (fingers crossed).



In Literacy (L) we are continuing to practice phonemes (sounds) and their corresponding graphemes (how they look on paper) because we have now learnt them all! I know, how clever are we? Please ask your child where their hands should be to show us they know a phoneme/grapheme (hands in lap), Digraph (hands on head), trigraphs (hands in the air) and double letter (finger on the nose). They are very skilled in this and I am sure will be thrilled to show off their knowledge. I have noticed that Tricky words are coming up again as areas for development and so I ask that you help your child with these (a sheet will be sent to you all and added to Tapestry as well).

The spring term sees children begin to further develop their writing for a purpose and from their own intrinsic motivation and this is further extended during the second half of term. There will be lots of talking, reading and writing about Food, Easter and Chocolate..... Mrs Kirby will be thrilled! We will also be looking closely at writing Non Fiction captions and labels to go with our drawings.

In Maths (M) we will be thinking about numbers to 10 and everything we can do with them. We will begin to think about our number bonds to 10 and so any conversation that involves "you have X, so how many more do you need to get to 10" will really help your child in this new exploration.

In Understanding the World (UW) we think a little more about past and present as we find out about the Easter story. We will also begin to explore the wider world and what foods begin their story there.

In Expressive Arts and Design (EAD) we continue to sing songs, paint, role play, make models and think about how to join different materials together.

Recommended activities to support learning:

Literacy	Please practice your child's flashcards, especially Tricky Words, and reading books regularly and as they say goes "Teamwork makes the dream work" ... Cheesy but accurate! Play eye spy using the sound that words begin with and giving extra clues, for example 'I spy with my little eye someone beginning with M or D' or sibling names and then move on to more obscure suggestions as this will help children apply their Phonic knowledge in a different and fun way. It also helps children to see the 'usefulness' of their learning
Maths	This half term it would be useful to draw children's attention to the different shapes we encounter every day and whether or not it is a flat (2D) shape or a fatter (3D) one. We will also be using our numbers to recognise how they all inter relate. Things like recognising how many are there (just chucked down) on a space. Are there three rolls? Four plates? How do you know without counting? That sort of conversation will be invaluable to developing your child's intrinsic understanding of Number as a Threshold Concept.



PSED	As I am sure you know, we will still talk a lot about using kind hands and voices etc. and about playing cooperatively with others. Any reinforcing of this you can do outside school is really valuable and makes their time in school a happier one.
PD	<p>We are back to Forest School on Wednesday afternoon which teaches children invaluable skills of curiosity and resilience. We will also be continuing to follow the rules of games in PE sessions with Miss Allen and so reinforcing the need to listen to and remember these will be a very useful skill that you can reinforce at home.</p> <p>Keep going with getting shoes on the right feet, managing jumpers and zips and even turning clothes the right way before putting them on (coat sleeves are the trickiest) as they are all essential learning in Year R and we really are getting there.</p> <p>Any help children you can give your children to become more independent and lead their own learning, away from these essential, and somewhat boring tasks will ensure that they have more time for what they recognise as 'learning times' but actually these little snippets of learning and skills practice are just as important when considering the holistic development of your children!</p>

Dates for your diary:

- Week commencing 20th February - Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 1st March – Author Visit
- Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day Vocabulary dress up day
- Thursday 2nd March – Cuddle Up with a Book after school event
- Monday 6th March – Parent Workshop – Understanding adaptive teaching
- Wednesday 8th March – Parent Open Forum
- Friday 31st March – Non-uniform day
- Friday 31st March – Easter Egg Hunt

Home Learning

- Reading at least three times every week. We have the online reading app for you to use to record reading at home, so you won't need to worry about finding a paper reading record. A letter detailing how to access this will be sent to you before the start of term.
- Phonics for EYFS and KS1 as well as any children receiving phonics interventions. You will be aware of the phase that your child is at based on their decodable phonics book – you will receive flash cards on a loan basis to rehearse sounds at home.



Kind regards,

The EYFS Team