

Year R Newsletter – Spring Term

What a great first term in Reception. Your children have settled in so brilliantly and are already well on their way to knowing all our Reception phonics sounds. In Autumn we enjoyed our Bear Hunt around the school grounds, our Teddy Bear's Picnic (thank you so much to everyone for joining us), we had a fantastic trip to St James' Church and are showing so much confidence singing our songs in preparation for our Winter Concert.



This half term -Spring 1: I'm on the Way!

This half term children will be learning about how to work in a group with support from an adult. We'll be learning how to persevere when things are hard and how to foster a growth mindset using the texts '**Everyone can learn to ride a bicycle**' by **Chris Raschka** and '**Flight School**' by **Lita Judge**.

We will be predicting what happens next in a story using the key texts '**Emma Jane's Aeroplane**' by **Katie Haworth** and '**Superkid**' by **Claire Freedman** which both have a rhyming repetitive story structure. We will use our phase 3 sounds to write 2- or 3-word phrases and labels with finger spaces in between each word.

We will use our topic to explore transport; going to **Royal Victoria Park** to ride on the steam train. This will help us compare transport now and that in the past. We will also create maps of our journeys using junk modelling and a variety of mark making tools. We'll learn to join materials by slotting, using braces, flanges and tabs. We will also explore magnets, like those on our train set, and experiment to find out what is and isn't magnetic. We'll create representations of different modes of transport using 2D and 3D shapes, recognising that shapes can have other shapes within them.

We'll begin to identify when two sets are equal or unequal and subitise to 5 using finger patterns, die patterns and the Hungarian number frame.

We will finish our topic by learning about people-who-help-us in our communities, with **visits from different emergency service workers**. We'll create a hospital in our role play area to help us develop storylines in our imaginary play.

We have story time daily to enrich our curriculum with a wide range of vocabulary. This half term we will have lots of fiction and non-fiction stories available, including books about: transport, people-who-help-us, superheroes, maps, perseverance and growth mindset.

Next half term – Spring 2: Food Around the World

This half term children will explore the topic of food and learn about healthy eating and toothbrushing. We will learn about our right to be healthy including access to clean water and healthy food.

We will be learning how to retell stories by creating story maps, sequencing pictures, and reading books multiple times. We will be using stories with a strong repetitive structure to help support this including 'Lima's Red Hot Chilli' by David Mills and 'The gingerbread man'. We will read other versions of the same story including 'The runaway chapati' by Susan Price and use these stories as a starting point to explore foods from around the world.

We will learn about where food comes from and read the books 'The Little Red Hen' by Debra Messing and 'Anywhere Farm' by Phyllis Root before planting our own fruits and vegetables from seed to sell as part of our plant sale! We will also be hatching eggs in our classroom to see where the chickens come from.

We will use our phase 3 phonics to make shopping lists and go to the shop to buy ingredients before making our own pancakes. We'll learn about weight and capacity including how to balance scales and use our fine motor skills to use a knife and fork to cut our pancakes. We will then write our own recipes.

We will use our scissor skills to cut out pictures of fruit to create images based on Guiseppe Arcimboldo's fruit portraits and experiment with printing techniques using a variety of different fruits and vegetables.

We'll begin to explore the concept of equal and unequal groups through odds and evens and learn how two equal groups can also be called doubles.

We have story time daily to enrich our curriculum with a wide range of vocabulary. This half term we will have lots of fiction and non-fiction stories available, including books about: countries around the world, food, farming, growing, being healthy and changes over time.



Key Dates

- Monday 6th January – First day back at school!
- Monday 20th January – INSET – school is closed to students.
- 15th February – 23rd February – HALF TERM
- Monday 24th February – INSET – school is closed to student
- Tuesday 25th February – First day back at school!
- 7th April – 21st April – EASTER BREAK
- Tuesday 22nd April – First day back at school!