



# Reception

Newsletter Spring 1, January 2017

**Dear Parents and Carers,**



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you had a good Christmas, the children were certainly very excited during the run up to the holidays! Another busy and exciting term lies ahead with plenty of fun and learning in store. Last week we really enjoyed hearing all about the children's Christmas celebrations and they did some fantastic writing about their favourite part of the winter break!

## TOPICS

Based on several of the children's interests, this half term we are going to have the umbrella topic 'SPACE'. During their Child Initiated Learning, we have noticed that many children have been particularly interested in stars, moon buggies and astronauts and we have had many wonderful creations in the Making Area! Any recycled materials such as cardboard tubes, small boxes and bottle tops would be greatly appreciated (no dairy-related items please!). We will also be learning about Chinese New Year, the year of the Rooster, which falls on the 28<sup>th</sup> January.



## HOME LEARNING CHALLENGE!

We will be starting our half term with a journey to Space and we wanted to find out a little bit about what the children already know. The children have been set a challenge to create something that they might see or find on their journey to Space e.g. an alien, planet, star, astronaut, spaceship, rocket, satellite etc. This could be a drawing, a photograph, a 3D model, a papier-mâché balloon – it is up to you! Please return these by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January when we will share them with the class and use them to create an exciting display! This research challenge will replace Phonics Fun Home Learning this Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

The children will choose and bring home a library book every week. Please return Library books to your class teacher, another book will not be sent home until the previous one is returned. Our Library sessions will be on Thursday afternoons.

## LEARNING JOURNEY SHARING

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February between 3.10pm and 4.30pm you will have you an opportunity to have a look at your child's learning journey and any other work they have done so far in Reception (we will combine this with Welcome Wednesday!) we look forward to seeing you.

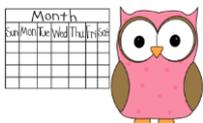


Finally, the most important thing is that your child is happy at school and has fun while they are learning. Please continue to share with us your children's interests and any wow moments and don't hesitate to let us know of any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Miss Cheer and Miss MacKinnon 😊

## Dates for your diary!



### **Week Beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**Maths Week** - In the afternoons of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we will welcome Parents and Carers in to explore Maths in Early Years through a variety of games and activities. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the window nearer the time.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Safer Internet Day 2017** - to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Further details of the day will follow.

### **Every first Wednesday of the Month 3.15-3.30pm**

11<sup>th</sup> January

1<sup>st</sup> February

1<sup>st</sup> March

**Welcome Wednesday's** - Parents and Carer's welcome in the classroom between 3.10pm and 3.30pm every first Wednesday of the month (as we are still on our Christmas Holidays on the 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have Welcome Wednesday on the 11<sup>th</sup> January!)

### **Wednesday 1<sup>th</sup> February 3.10 – 4.30pm**

### **Learning Journey Sharing**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

**End of Half Term** - School finishes for Half-Term at 3.10pm.

## How to help your child at home:

- Reading a variety of books with your child.
- Retelling familiar stories in their own words or using the pictures in a book. Can they change the ending?
- Practising oral blending in games such as 'I Spy' (I spy a.. c-a-t/z-i-p).
- Hiding phonemes/words/alphabet/numbers around the house.
- Counting to 20 forwards and backwards and finding one more or one less to 10.
- Singing number rhymes such as Five Currant Buns, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer, Ten Green Bottles.
- Using fingers and objects to add two single digit numbers together.
- Cutting and sticking pictures from magazines and newspapers to make their own picture.

## Useful Websites

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies)

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freelIndex.htm>

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

## Useful Apps

Hairy letters

abc PocketPhonics

Phonics Lilies

Forest Phonics

Number Line

Ladybird Maths

Hungry Fish

Math, Age 3-5 and Age 4-6

Tap A Tune

Bee-Bot

Monster Hunt (Memory game)

\*There are also several free read-along books such as 'Toy Story Read Along' or 'Collins Big Cat'.

## Understanding the World

### People and Communities

Paper plate saucer families.  
Chinese New Year – looking at similarities and differences to other cultures.

### The World

Planet facts, star constellations, life as an astronaut, transport to space, telescopes. Beginning to learn about light and Dark.

### Technology

Using Bee-Bots to navigate around space mats.  
Simple computer controls.

## Communication, Language and Literacy

### Reading

Rhyming, non-fiction space books, word building rockets, story sequencing.

### Writing

Writing to our Alien pen pal asking questions about his planet. Post cards to Mummy Bear from Whatever Next.

### Speaking and Listening

Describing the alien's underpants.  
Finding clues for the alien (positional language - Wellcomm). Retelling stories.

## Physical Development

### Moving and Handling

Developing our fine motor skills – Making moon rocks, galaxy playdough, using tweezers to retrieve stars out of gel, playdough aliens, moon sand tracing (baby oil and sand), hanging underpants on pegs, making prints in moon sand with 'moon buggies', wrapping moon pebbles.

### Health and self-care

Learning about a healthy range of food and understanding the need for variety in food. Chinese food tasting.

## Space! Spring 1, 2017

Possible topic Books: Whatever Next by Jill Murphy, Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort, Q Pootle by Nick Butterworth, Beegu by Alexis Deacon, Here Come the Aliens by Colin McNaughton, How to Catch a Star and The way back home by Oliver Jeffers

## Expressive Arts and Design

### Exploring and using media and materials:

Selecting appropriate resources and adapting work where necessary.  
Designing things such as planets, rockets, aliens, oxygen tanks and many more!  
Planet songs and dances.

### Being Imaginative:

Re-enacting stories.  
Playing cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

### Making Relationships

Takes steps to resolve conflicts with other children, e.g. finding a compromise.

### Managing feelings and behaviour

Recapping our Summercroft Golden Rules. How to role play safely.

## Mathematics

### Number

Recognising and ordering numbers to 10, then 20.

Adding and subtracting two single digit numbers

Rocket races – ordinal numbers, distance travelled.

### Shape, Space and Measure

3D Shapes, making 3D rockets.

Positional language to describe where the aliens are.