



Spring 2018



Reception News

THEME FOR THE TERM

As we wave goodbye to the winter, we embark on 'Spring to Life' our topic for the second half term of 2018. We will be observing changes in the weather and signs of new life in the environment, looking at plant growth and later the development of baby animals into adults.



Also during the half term, our thoughts turn towards the traditional Easter story and the customs surrounding this religious spring festival.

LITERACY

Our Literacy texts each week will be linked to 'new life' and 'growth' and will include 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth. We will also be looking at 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story', another traditional tale to add to our repertoire!

As part of our phonics we will be revising digraphs - two letters that produce one sound. 'Penpals for Handwriting' this half term continues to focus on 'Long Ladder letters' and then moves on to 'One-armed Robot' letters. Attached to this newsletter is a sheet introducing all our letter families.



READING

We continue working on key words with our 'Word Wallets' and new words for this half term will be issued soon. Please remind your child daily that he/she may choose another reading book to bring home - do feel free to come into school to help your child choose a new book. Please encourage your child to read a book band book now as well as sharing stories with them. Please also remember to date, sign and if necessary, write a short comment in the reading diary. The children are very keen on moving up the 'Reading Rocket'!



EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

As well as looking at flower paintings by artists such as, Van Gogh and Monet, the children will be doing some observational drawing of spring flowers. The children continue to enjoy the art and craft room to freely create collages and models from their own imagination. Many thanks for keeping us supplied with assorted recyclable materials! We are also in need of any paper we can use for drawing and colouring in the writing corner - donations are always welcome.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

We will begin our work in this area by considering what plants need to enable them to grow and by planting beans. We will be looking at the changes as the beans germinate and grow.

In R.E we will be looking at the life of Jesus, including his baptism, Mothering Sunday, and the Easter Story. We will be making chocolate nests - as usual please advise us of any allergies!



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

P.E sessions this term will continue to take place on Fridays. During these sessions we will continue to do Gym when we use the large climbing equipment in the hall and also develop the children's control of smaller apparatus such as beanbags, bats, balls, quoits and ropes and introduce basic games skills. As the weather becomes warmer, we hope to be able to do some of our Games lessons outside. Please regularly check to see if your child's plimsolls still fit!



We still lose valuable teaching time each week after P.E, as we endeavour to match un-named items of clothing to their rightful owners! We also realise that even when clothing is named, mistakes still happen and a child may go home wearing an item belonging to someone else. Please be vigilant, checking your child's uniform regularly - daily if possible - and return the items to us. If your child has lost any clothing, we can send out a letter asking parents to search for the item. You may also wish to rummage around through our growing collection of 'lost property'.

AND FINALLY....

... a reminder that letters are usually issued on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please check your child's book bag regularly and our board outside Octopus classroom for reminders.

. we have been having a few 'issues' with playtime toys over the last half term. Toys should be small and not too precious. Please could you also check that the right toys come home with your child thank you.

...we continue to welcome parents, carers and relatives on any and as many Monday afternoons as you wish after school. We hope you will find a few moments to come into school with your child, take the opportunity to look around the Reception unit, and perhaps have an informal chat with the teachers. We look forward to seeing you!

....we will be visiting St Peter's church to learn about baptism on Thursday 22nd February. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to walk with us. Children may wear their 'Sunday best' for the day!

....Thursday 1st March is also World Book Day. Please see separate letter for more details.



... **Class assembly**

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!