

Reception Newsletter

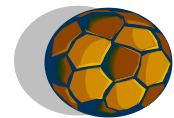
We hope you have had an enjoyable Easter break and have come back to school ready to do lots of learning. Our topic this half term is 'Why do zebras have stripes?' During this topic we will be learning all about Africa, including some of the features of this amazing country and some of wild animals that live there.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be continuing to promote independent learning and the children will have independent 'must do' activities to help them to develop a responsibility for their own learning. We will also be encouraging the children to persevere at activities they find hard and to improve their concentration and focus when doing work. We will be continuing to encourage the children to play co-operatively with others, sharing and taking turns well and we will be looking at negotiating problems with others, in particular how to solve them and reach a compromise, while showing sensitivity to others and their needs.

Physical Development

Your child will be participating in P.E. lessons. They will be expected to have a full P.E. kit in school for these lessons and will need to be able to get themselves changed. This half term the children will be looking at learning gymnastic skills such as rolling, jumping and balancing. The children will also develop skills of travelling along and climbing up large equipment and will be taught how to use and handle this equipment safely. The children will also be joining in with team games and races, to help prepare them for Sports Day. As well as developing these gross motor skills the children will be developing their fine motor skills. They will do this by continuing to practise letter and number formation and holding the pencil correctly, threading objects and making models with play-dough. Your child will also have the opportunity to participate in Commando Joe lessons as well as dancing with Becky, a specialist dance teacher on a Friday afternoon.



Communication and Language

This half term the children will be discussing in detail stories that they have heard and answering questions about them, including one of the main stories we will be looking at during this topic: 'Handa's Surprise'. The children will be consolidating their phonic sound knowledge and will be looking at identifying learnt sounds in cvcc and cvc words (e.g. wish or thin). The children will also be encouraged to start to use this knowledge to read their own guided reading books. As well as developing their fluency in reading they will be encouraged to answer questions about what they have read to help develop their comprehension skills. They will be continuing to learn their key words and be able to access further reading on Bug Club. The children will also be encouraged to use their language to express their needs and wishes to others in an articulate manner.

Literacy

Your child will consolidate their phonic knowledge of the single sounds and digraphs they have learnt and they will start to use this knowledge in their writing. The children will be encouraged to continue to hear the sounds in words and write the sounds they can hear, independently. They will also start to spell some of the key words correctly in their writing. The children will have the opportunity to write sentences in a variety of different contexts including letters, riddles and facts, through a range of fun activities such as writing their own animal riddles and their own fact files about an African animal. There will also be a continued focus on the children's presentation and correct letter and number formation. Helping to reinforce this at home will be very helpful. Please remind your child to start their letters at the top and reinforce the position of letters on a line or above or below it e.g. a, b, p.

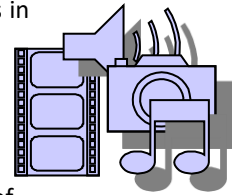


Mathematics

Your child will consolidate their number knowledge of counting out objects accurately and recognising, ordering and saying numbers in order from 1-20 and back. The children will also begin to count in ten's and two's and look at numbers within 100 counting forwards and backwards. They will then use this knowledge to start to know some number facts such as one less and one more. They will continue to develop their knowledge of addition and subtraction. They will also look at money and coin recognition and will continue to sort and match 2D and 3D shapes, looking at the properties of these shapes and using the correct mathematical language to describe them.

Understanding the World

The children will talk about things in their environment examining similarities and differences. They will also be learning about the features of another country; Africa, including location, landscape and wildlife and they will be looking at how it is different to where they live. They will also be able to find out about the different cultures and traditions in Africa and will even get the chance to learn some new words and phrases in this language. Your child will get the opportunity to use various ICT equipment, including the laptops, where they will get to explore 'Google Earth' to find out all about where Africa is.



Expressive Arts and Design

Your child will build on their repertoire of songs. They will also be provided with a number of creative opportunities, including painting with various tools and modelling and creating pictures with different textures. Some of the exciting creative projects they will have the opportunity to access this half term, include, animal camouflage pictures, creating African landscapes using a variety of medias and materials, African patterns and printing and even papier mache, to create objects from our story 'Handa's Surprise'. They will also be encouraged to use their knowledge of stories to act them out in their own role-play and puppet shows.

Outdoor Area

Children will have continued access to our outdoor learning classroom. They will be able to continue using our 'Early Excellence' resources to construct and collaborate with each other on a large scale, which will be beneficial for developing their language and social skills. In addition, we will also be working hard to create our own 'African village' outside the classroom.

Please ensure your child brings their book bag to school every day with their reading book and library book.

(Unfortunately fines will be issued for lost / unreturned books).

Now the weather is getting warmer, please ensure your child has a **water bottle in school**, and that it is only filled with **water NOT juice or squash**

Thank you

Mrs Hastings, Miss Holmes, Mrs Hemming, Miss Edmonds