



Reception Curricular Letter

Spring 2 2024 – Fire, fire!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely half term break for you all. The homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term was very impressive so thank you for all your efforts at home – it was great to see lots of work uploaded to Seesaw too. Acorn Class have quickly settled back into their routines and have applied themselves superbly during our first week back. It has been a brilliant start to the half term with, well done kids! We have a very busy rest of the half term filled with other exciting activities to enhance our curriculum.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children in Acorn Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 1 and Year 2. Our topic is called 'Fire, Fire' and many of our activities will relate to this.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,
Mrs Barclay
Teacher

Days to Remember

Monday

*After school club –
No Cook Cookery*

Tuesday

PE

*After school- Year
6 SATs booster
(Paid wrap around
care is available)*

Wednesday

Thursday

*After school club –
Performing Arts with
Miss Fenton*

Friday

PE

*After school club –
Target Games*

This half term our topic is 'Fire, fire!'. As with the start of all our topics, we will discuss it with the children to find out what they already know about it and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests.

Designing and making
artefacts for the great
fire of London.

Making a
movie trailer.

World
Book
Day

Building a
city scape of
London.

Pancake day
races

Easter Egg
Hunt

Sensory walk
and
blindfold
game

The Half Term Ahead

Seasonal
stories

Deconstructed
role play

PE
Fun Fitness
Outdoor and
adventurous

LITERACY

All Literacy work is closely linked to the 'Fire, fire!' theme; we will be studying Katie in London and the diary of Samuel Pepys. This half term children will develop their speaking and listening skills through daily class discussions and weekly circle time sessions, the deconstructed role play will also provide opportunities for children to create, listen and respond to others. We will also be discussing stories during whole class, guided groups and individual reading sessions. With their talk partners, the children will be encouraged to ask and answer how and why questions. As we progress through the letters and sounds scheme, it is important to practise sounds with your child as well as the phase 2 and phase 3 tricky words which have previously been sent home. We are now also focusing on handwriting, which the children do weekly.

We are now encouraging the children to form letters correctly, i.e. starting and finishing in the correct place. As always, we will provide the children with lots of opportunities for independent reading and writing inside and outside the classroom. Pupils will be encouraged to correctly use capital letters and full stops.

Funky Fingers

Funky Fingers a series of fun activities for children to build up their upper body strength (gross motor skills) and finger/hand strength and control (fine motor skills). There is a wealth of activities that you can do with your child to improve these skills and get them ready to write. I can recommend visiting the website 'Therapy Street for Kids' which has a lot of information on the different skills to develop as well as lots of great ideas.

www.therapiststreetforkids.com/

On this page there are:

- Pre-writing and early writing activity ideas to get you started
- Examples of warmups children can do before picking up their pencil
- The letter families to help you practice at home

Pre-writing activities to get you started:

- Dough disco – pinching, pressing, rolling, squeezing, finger tapping and walking (visit
- Picking up items with pegs, tongs, tweezers.
- Threading beads. straws etc.

Early writing activities:

- Drawing letter shapes in the air to music
- Copying over letter shapes
- Drawing letters in sand or shaving foam spread thinly on a table.
- Write with chalk, crayons, finger paints, pencils, pens etc.
- Recognition of letters through touch (stick letters, magnetic letters, fuzzy felt, sand paper letters).
- Drawing or writing with chalks on the ground or pavement
- Water painting on outdoor walls with paintbrush.

Reading

This half term, the children will take home 2 reading books at a time - a Phonics Books and a Home Readers. Last term, we struggled to guess whether books had been read at home and needed changing. It is helpful if you can write in your child's reading record book if you have read or shared the books as this will help us to monitor the strategies your child uses to read and whether you require new books sending home. Your child will also bring home 'tricky word' or 'keyword' cards, words that your child will be expected to recognise by sight. Please keep it in your child's book bag so it can be changed when necessary.

Phonic Books: These books give your child the opportunity to practice the sounds and skills they have been taught in phonics, so they are a really important and should be prioritised out the two. **These are books that the children should read independently to someone at home.**

Home Readers: These books are not decodable and do not match where the children are in phonics. Therefore, this is a book which an adult should read to the child for enjoyment and pleasure. **We strongly advise you to read these books with your child,** maybe discussing a page at a time or reading to each other. These books provide a great opportunity to develop comprehension skills and develop vocabulary

If you're struggling to find time to read both (Phonics and Home Reader), we would prefer you to read the phonics books first.

Bug Club <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0> Don't forget, you can access online phonics e-books for your child to read at home at the weekends on Bug Club. The books have been selected for your child, according to the level they are reading

MATHS

The children's mathematical development is furthered through whole class work, through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. During the half term, we will continue to build on children's knowledge of numbers up to 10 using resources from White Rose Hub ('Growing 6, 7, 8' and 'Building 9 and 10'). We will be practising reciting, recognising, ordering, comparing, subitising and writing numbers. We will recap how to find 'one more' and 'one less' and continue through practical activities, learn how to add and subtract. In addition, we will introduce the children to ordinal numbers and continue to talk about some key times such as days of the week, months of the year using our class chronology calendar.

How can you help at home?

- Help your child to recognise and order the numbers 0 to 10 and spot numbers when you are out and about.
- Support your child's understanding of early addition by encouraging them to find the total number of objects in 2 groups.
- Practise finding one more and one less than any number from 1-10 using practical objects.
- Practise reciting days of the week and months of the year.

Water bottles in class.

The children are encouraged to drink water during the school day to keep them hydrated. Research has proved that remaining hydrated improves learning. The children have access to their water bottles throughout the day. Water bottles will be sent home each day for a wash and must be returned to school every day. The children can only have water in their bottles - no juice or flavoured water please.

As with all our work in Reception, the topics involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop children's learning. Thank you for your support so far and if at any time throughout the year you may have questions or thoughts on your child's work or well-being, please feel free to catch me after school or send me a message via Class Dojo.

Many thanks,

Karen Barclay

Teacher