

# Reception (Oak) Spring Term Newsletter

## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely, restful Christmas and New Year with your families and friends.

Thank you so much for the kind words, cards and gifts I received at the end of last term. I was overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

Although a shorter term, the Spring term is a busy and exciting one! I am really looking forward to taking the children further in their education journey as they continue to grow in Oak class.

## Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

Our 'Ashwell Learning Journey' topic for this first half term is called 'Water, Water, Everywhere!' The children will be learning about winter to begin with; exploring seasons and spotting the signs of winter. We will be investigating water around the world, what we need water for and exploring floating and sinking. We will also be looking at animals and the environment under the sea.

The second half term focus will be called 'Our Wonderful World!' The children will be learning about the changes that happen in spring and new life, including the life cycles of plants and animals (with a surprise appearance from some special guests that will be joining us!). They will be exploring space, nocturnal animals and recycling; with an emphasis on what they can do to look after the world that we live in. They will also continue to learn about festivals and celebrations that happen around the world as and when appropriate.

We will as always, adapt our curriculum with 'in the moment planning' to provide opportunities to correspond with the children's interests as the term develops.

## Prime Area of Learning: (Communication & Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Physical Development)

In Oak Class, we aim to provide as many daily opportunities as possible for your child to talk about what they are thinking and how they are feeling, continuing to explore, practise and embed strategies to support with regulating emotions so that they can use these independently when needed.

We will provide time for them to share what they have been doing during child initiated time or show extra activities that they have been working on at home. We will continue to have 'together time' on a Friday that allows us to reflect on the past week and share what we are proud of achieving. We will also be continuing to encourage your child to be as independent as possible and take safe risks within the setting through their play.

As well as the daily physical activity as part of child-initiated learning, in adult led PE lessons, we will be continuing to develop our fundamental movement skills and co-ordination through a unit focusing on 'ball skills' in the first half term and 'gymnastics' in the second half term.

### Specific Areas of Learning

(Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design)

Your child will read with a member of staff at least twice a week, this will be recorded on 'boom reader' as either an individual read or a guided reading session. When they are not reading with an adult during guided reading, they will be completing short tasks to consolidate learning or show their understanding about what they have read.

In Phonics, we will be making progress with our Phase 3 sounds, learning 3 new sounds a week and revisiting taught sounds regularly to embed them further. We will be practising our letter formation and writing words, captions and sentences with application of sounds. We will continue to do daily disco dough and busy fingers to support our fine motor skills and strengthen our hands for writing.

Our Maths sessions will continue to remain very practical, involving manipulatives to develop your child's conceptual understanding. We will be deepening our learning on numbers to 20 and beyond, ordering them and beginning to explore addition and subtraction.

Within continuous provision, the children will have daily opportunities to challenge themselves and embed their learning further.

### Other Messages:

Within our EYFS, we are continuing to further the opportunities for children to share and talk. Each Friday across the term, 3 – 4 children will be asked to bring something in from home that they would like to talk about during our together time slot. This is not a regular show & tell where children bring in an achievement or something they have made but instead can be of anything that the child chooses – e.g. a hobby, something they are passionate about, a place they have been to. You can help your child prepare for this however they would like, photos, poster, drawings, physical objects etc. Each child will have a few minutes to present to the class. Please see the grid below for your child's selected Friday.

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Daisy / George G / Darcy
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Stella / Charlie / Felix
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Alice C / Louie / Orla
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Orin / Mia / Blake / Olive
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Riley / Isabelle / Florence
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Austin / Winnie / Tuscany
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Oliver / Luca / Rommy / Poppy
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Thanvi / George S / Bethany
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Devon / Roxie / Henry / Alice V

Best wishes,

Miss Meehan ☺