



Reception Thames Class Curriculum Newsletter

Summer One 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see the children come back happily after the Easter break, excited to see their friends and tell us what they had been up to over the holiday.

In **literacy**, we have been recapping all the sounds that the children have learnt in reception class. We are especially focusing on the digraphs (when two letters make one sound, such as 'oa' in 'road') and trigraphs (when three letters make one sound such as 'air' in hair). This is where we have noticed most of the gaps in their sound knowledge. The children are learning to spot these sounds in words when reading and use them in their writing. Later in the term we will be learning phase four sounds in phonics. Here the focus is on words with consonant clusters. This means two or more consonants together at the beginning of a word (e.g., stop), at the end of a word (e.g., bump) or both (e.g., stamp). Children continue to read daily in their phonics lessons and are listened to read on a one-to-one basis with an adult each week. We are also encouraging the children to write simple sentences. We teach them to say the sentence out loud lots of times, so they know which word comes next and to check what they have written to see if it makes sense. Your child's sound book is complete now but should still be used to revise the sounds learnt this year.

Please continue to listen to your child read and write in their reading record. Remember that we want reading to be an enjoyable and fun thing to do. Choose the time carefully and if it is just a page or two, that is okay. When you read a book to your child, can they read any of the words to you? Can they spot any tricky words? When you are out and about, can they read any words on signs? Or spot digraphs?

This half term we will be focusing on the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which links well with our learning about growing and lifecycles. We are learning the story and actions to help retell it independently. We will also be acting it out and making up our own different version of the story. We are using the vocabulary of 'character', 'setting', 'problem' and 'solution' in relation to stories.

In **maths**, we have been learning numbers to 20 and beyond, looking at how numbers including and more than ten are made up of a group or groups of ten. Such as 15 is one group of 10 and five more. We will also be looking at adding more and taking away, spatial reasoning, doubling, sharing and grouping.

At the parents evening I gave out maths passports, the targets on these link to some of the maths expectations for the end of reception year. We will be checking these over this term.

In **PE**, we are learning to use the gym equipment to practise our jumping, climbing and balancing skills. We will move on to athletics and then playing some team games in preparation for sports day. The children are much more independent at getting changed for PE and are now able to change in under 10 minutes! Please continue to make sure that their school uniform and PE kit is named.

As part of our Religious Education learning, we will be looking at how we can be good helpers and who are special people for Muslims and Christians. This term we are focusing on growing, looking at the lifecycles of different animals and plants. In art we will be looking at the artists Yayoi Kusama and Barbara Hepworth. We are also looking at how life was different in the past. If you have any objects from the past that reception class would be unfamiliar with, we would love to borrow them for these sessions.

Home Learning: if your child is having to self-isolate but is well enough to do some learning at home, there is a memo on Tapestry with ideas of what your child can do.

Also, as the weather gets warmer, please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school and that their jumper is named too. You may wish for your child to have a sun hat for sunny days and provide sun cream for them to apply themselves.

If you have any concerns or questions, please pop in to see me or you could let me know via Tapestry.

Thank you

Miss Coulter, Mrs Atwal and Mrs Bennett.