

Spring Term in Reception

This half term our topic is 'Real life superheroes' which is all about people who help us. During the topic we will be having lots of interesting visitors come in to Reception to talk about their jobs and how they help us. Next half term our topic is 'Journeys' in which we will investigate different modes of transport. Alongside this we will be learning the personal, social and emotional aspects of being in Reception class (such as sharing resources and being a good friend), developing good speaking and listening skills, gross and fine motor skills, and learning how to stay healthy and safe. We will also be continuing our phonics programme, learning the phase 3 trigraphs and then moving on to consolidate our knowledge in phase 4. We will also be focusing more on the high frequency/tricky/fast words. You can help your child by using the ideas and websites listed below.

Thank you for all the support you have given us, and your child, over the last term. Please remember that we are here if you have any worries, questions or concerns, no matter how small you think they are. We want to ensure that your child is happy at Clarendon.

Literacy

Children will be taught to hear, read and write the phase 3 sounds in the order below and segment and blend simple words.

- Air - pair, stair, fair, lair, hair.
- Igh - high, night, light, bright, fight.
- Ear - dear, hear, smear, gear, clear.
- Ure - cure, sure, pure, manure.

Phase 4 then develops blending and segmenting skills using these sounds and introduces more high frequency/tricky/fast words.

Useful Websites

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

How can you help?

- ✓ Reading with your child
- ✓ Helping your child to form or trace letter shapes, and write words.
- ✓ Encouraging them to count, recognise numbers to 20 and 2D and 3D shapes.
- ✓ Doing simple addition and subtraction in everyday situations.
- ✓ Talking about time, money, position, weight, size, capacity and distance to compare and solve problems.

Useful Websites

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk>

Maths

Number

- counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers to 20
- learning ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc)
- completing simple subtraction & addition calculations
- problem solving

Shape, Space and Measure

- comparing weights, heights and lengths
- talking about time and money

Communication and Language

- Listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.
- Listening attentively to stories, anticipating key events, and commenting on what they've heard.
- Maintaining attention, concentration and sitting quietly during carpet time.
- Following a story without pictures or props
- Using Chatterboxes to link statements and stick to a main theme, and to express themselves effectively in front of the class.
- Developing narrative and vocabulary through play.

Physical Development

- Travelling with confidence and skill in a range of different ways.
- Forming recognisable letters and numbers.
- Using a pencil, and other tools, effectively.
- Considering ways to keep healthy and safe, eat healthy foods and look after our bodies.
- Developing how to manage basic hygiene and personal care needs themselves successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Being a good friend.
- Turn taking and sharing.
- Being good at tidying up and looking after our environment.
- Going for goals.
- How to stay safe and healthy.

Expressive Art and Design

- How to use paintbrushes, tempura paint blocks, pencils, pens, and modelling materials effectively.
- Using various materials to make, draw and paint various people who help us and transport.
- How to use detail and colour to make art look more realistic.
- Mixing colours
- Rhythm in music and dance
- Spring and travel songs
- Music from around the world

Understanding the World

- Interacting with various people who help us to learn about different occupations in fun and practical ways (for example; fire fighters, doctors, nurses, vets, and police officers)
- Learning about different forms of transport and how these have developed over time.
- Joining in with some different customs that occur this term (e.g. Chinese New Year, Valentines Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter, etc.)
- Developing their ICT skills in the computer suite
- Special places and special stories (RE)

Other useful information about Reception

Book Bags

Please make sure that your child has a Clarendon book bag. If each child has a book bag, we can ensure that they go home with their reading books, and any leaflets, each day. Please can you also not put drinks, toys or stickers in their book bags. Please encourage your child to put their own coat and other personal items away each morning as this will help improve their independence. If you can say goodbye at the bottom of the steps (unless entering to change reading books) this will help develop their independence too.

Cold Weather, clothes and lip balm

A large part of our curriculum is conducted outdoors so please can you ensure that your child has a coat every day, which is ideally warm and waterproof in this weather. Please can you also make sure that all coats, gloves, scarfs and hats are named. Can you also check your child's jumper, and write over any fading names. PE lessons are usually on Tuesdays. Please make sure all PE t-shirts and shorts are named, as well as school shoes, plimsolls, socks and tights. Please check that your child's plimsolls fit properly and are not too small or too large. Lip balms are not to be shared and will be taken away if this happens. Lip balms should only be provided if lips are chapped and should be clear.

Superheroes

During the last week of this half term (week commencing 6th February) Reception will be learning about superheroes as a fabulous finish to our topic. You are welcome to collect any books or magazines with superheroes in, and bring this in on the last day of term (9th February). On this day, the children will also get the chance to dress up as a superhero, so please look out for any costumes your child may like to wear.

Homework

Homework is such a vital part of a child's education and reinforcing their learning. Homework goes out on a Friday and is due back in on Wednesday. Please can you tick each completed activity and return the sheet with comments detailing how your child is getting on with their homework. In the Early Years Foundation Stage evidence of your child's fantastic learning at home can be taken into account when assessing their progress and development. Please come and talk to us if you have any issues with completing the homework. We are here to help, and homework should be fun!

Reading

It is so important at this stage that they read their reading books regularly. Please try and hear your child read for at least 10 minutes every day. Please can you sign the yellow reading record when you have read with your child, indicating the page number reached, or that the book is finished. Any brief comments about how your child read the book, or about any questions/conversations about the book that you had with your child are very useful for our continual assessment. Reading books and records should be brought into school every day so that we can change books and read with the children at every available opportunity.

Donations

Thank you for all of the boxes of tissues we've received so far, and for the socks, and anything else that you have been kind enough to donate!