

## Summer Term in Reception

This half term our topic is 'Growing' where we will be learning about fruit and vegetables, mini-beasts and life-cycles, and we will be having our exciting trip to Ladyland Farm. Next half term our topic is 'Our Wonderful World' in which we will be thinking about the environment, different landscapes and animals, and how to take care of our wonderful world. Alongside this we will continue to learn the personal, social and emotional aspects of being in Reception class (such as going for goals, and the transition to Year 1), speaking and listening skills, gross and fine motor skills, and learning how to stay healthy and safe. We are also continuing our phonics programme and during group learning times we are focusing on Phase 4. We will continue to support those children who still need practise with Phase 2 and 3, and children who need some Phase 5 knowledge. We will also be focusing more on the high frequency/tricky/fast words, and applying their phonics skills and high frequency word skills in writing words and sentences. You can help your child 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 are here to ensure that your child is happy at Clarendon.

### Literacy

Phase 4 develops blending and segmenting skills using the Phase 2 and 3 sounds, and introduces more high frequency/tricky/fast words. If your child is not secure in Phase 2 or 3, please work at this level, or even with Phase 1 listening games.

Please note that they must be able to use Phase 2, 3 and 4 phonics in their writing, as well as being able to read them.

#### 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 write phonetically plausible words and sentences (only focussing on spelling tricky words correctly)
- ✓ Encouraging them to halve, double and share objects and shapes
- ✓ Counting on and back in addition and subtraction using everyday situations. Working out one more and less.
- ✓ Talking about simple mathematical problems.

#### Useful Websites

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

### Maths

#### Number

- counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers to 20
- Counting on and back in subtraction and addition sums to 20
- One more and one less than a number to 20
- problem solving

#### Shape, Space and Measure

- halving, doubling and sharing

### 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.

The transition to Year 1.

### Communication and Language

- Listening attentively in a range of different situations.
- Giving attention to what others say, and responding appropriately whilst engaged in another activity.
- Expressing themselves effectively showing awareness of the listeners' needs.
- Using past, present and future forms when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.
- Developing narrative and explanations.
- Following instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- Answering 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

### Physical Development

- Developing good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.
- Moving in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- Using a pencil, and other tools, effectively.
- Knowing the importance for good health of doing physical exercise and having a healthy diet.
- Managing their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.
- Ways to keep healthy and safe.

## Expressive Art and Design

- Acrimbolito and fruit faces - unusual art/art as an arrangement of objects.
- Basic percussion
- Still life drawings; looking at using correct colours and small details. Including small drawings of minibeasts.
- Songs about growth, vegetables, animals, looking after our world, etc.
- Role play farms, bug laboratory, growing, jungle, beach, etc.

## Understanding the World

- Animal habitats and lifecycles
- Floating and sinking
- Joining in with some different customs that occur this term (e.g. Vaisakhi, St Georges Day, etc.)
- ICT skills - creating and publishing.
- Special objects (artefacts in RE)
- Different environments around the world, including beaches and rainforests.
- How the environment and animals have evolved.

## Other useful information about Reception

### The British Weather

As the British weather is a little unpredictable, please send your child into school with a coat or mac and wellies if there is any chance that they might need it, as they spend a lot of time learning outside.

When the weather is sunny, please can you apply some 'day long' lasting sunscreen before they come to school? We do find that it can really impact upon learning when we have to apply sunscreen to 30 children. We are happy to apply it again at lunch time if you are unable to find long lasting sunscreen. You will also need to provide us with named sunscreen and fill out the permission slip provided if you wish this to be applied at school. The sunscreen must be in its original packaging, with instructions of use and ingredients clearly visible. Someone will help your child to apply this at lunchtime. Due to issues concerning allergies, your child will only use their own cream. Sunscreen will be kept in a tray by the sink and goes out at lunchtime playtime.

We also advise that your child wears a Clarendon sun hat/cap which is clearly named. Sunglasses are not to be worn in school.

### Shoes and footwear

Please can you check your child's plimsolls are still the correct size, as they will not be able to participate in PE if they do not have the appropriate footwear. Some of them will have begun to outgrow them by now! Please bear in mind that children will not be able to access the outdoor learning climbing frame if they have sandals on with loose straps. We are fortunate enough to have a mud pit, and growing outdoor planters, for the children to explore and grow things in. We do encourage the children not to stand in the mud pit to prevent muddy socks, however, if possible please bring in a pair of wellies for your child to wear when doing this activity.

### Going to Year One

It is extremely important to talk to your child about moving up into Year One. Some children find the prospect of leaving Reception daunting and will need some reassurance. These fears are quite normal, but please talk with us if you have any concerns. Please remember that small problems can often be dealt with before they become big ones! We will be discussing this with the class, as the visits from the new children will begin shortly after half term. We have a transition programme where your child will spend some time in Year One to get used to the environment and new teacher. We will start coming in through the silver doors by the dinner hall soon, like the rest of the school, but we will do this when I feel that all the children are ready for this and will cope with the change. I will let you all know when I am planning to do this.

### End of the Foundation Stage

As you are aware, we have been completing assessments of your child since they began at Clarendon. These are national assessments required by the government and largely take the form of observations; you will receive a copy of your child's final assessments with their report.

### Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support since September. We have had a wonderful year with your fantastic children and will miss them all next year! They have been a super class, and you should all be very proud of them.