



# Curriculum Newsletter



"You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizons. The more things you love, the more things you are interested in, the more you enjoy."

Ethyl Barrymore (actress)

## Spring Term 2019

**Main stories – Dear Zoo, Giraffe's can't dance, Penguin small**

**Main theme – Animals and habitats, patterns**

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome back to the spring term. This is the second of our curriculum newsletters and we hope you will find the following information useful in understanding how much fun your child will have at our school whilst learning.

## What are we learning this term?

### Communication and language / speaking and listening

We use our themes to teach the children to listen carefully, to retell and answer questions correctly about stories they have heard. When reading your nightly bedtime story try to ask a question, such as, 'How do think he feels just now?' or 'I wonder how he did that?' We build confidence in our children to help them work positively in a team, for which listening and responding to others is very important. Children will be encouraged further to ask relevant questions of each other to gain more information, helping them to understand clearly.

### Literacy

In phonics there will be opportunities to revise alphabet sounds, and to extend knowledge of two letter sounds known as digraphs (ai, ee, ow, oo etc). Blending and segmenting skills continue in all stages of phonics learning. We will also continue to build knowledge of tricky reading words, these are words that cannot be sounded out such as here, said, the. To move learning further towards Early Learning Goals, your child will be encouraged to further develop correct letter formation when writing sounds they hear in words. We will focus upon writing those sounds in order, using letters of a similar size. You can help greatly by encouraging you child to practise letter formation in sand, water, mud and on paper with pens.

### Mathematical Development

We will be learning all about doubling and halving to 10. As the term progresses we will be looking at how shapes fit together (tesselate). This is always a favourite for the children as we learn shape names and create repetitive patterns. When you are out and about can you spot any familiar shapes and patterns? Patterns in numbers includes counting backwards and forwards in equal steps (2,4,6,8 ; 5,10,15,20 ; 10,20,30,40) and also trying to work out what might be missing or come next in the pattern; for example, 1, 3,5, 7, ?

## Top Tips

**Dressing** – By the end of Reception year, children are expected to dress and undress independently. Managing socks, tights, zips and press studs are tricky skills which require plenty of practise, and grown up patience! You can help at home, again by encouraging your child to try for themselves. Perhaps the weekend is the best time, when mornings may not be so rushed!

**Using a knife and fork** – In the aspect of 'Physical development' the Early Learning Goal requires children to use a range of single handed tools. This includes scissors to cut out shapes, spoons to collect water or sand, and a knife and fork to eat their food. You can help at home by encouraging your child to use a fork initially, moving away from a spoon. Then progress to a knife to cut up soft food.

**Keep in touch**- If you change your email address, phone number or home address please tells us **ASAP**. We need to be able to contact you immediately should your child become ill or require medical treatment.

**Talk to us**- If you have any worries, queries or questions **please** come and speak to us and we will do our best to address your concerns.

## What are we learning this term?

### PSHE

This term we will continue to support the children in developing confidence when talking in front of their peers. We will also encourage the children to praise each other and respect each other's ideas, and as a result build stronger self-esteem and friendships.

We will encourage the children to share resources with one another and understand the importance of taking turns. This will also help them to look after resources in school as we encourage the children to look after and put away resources independently.

The children will be introduced to our learning team who will help them develop skills around listening, sharing, persevering and asking questions.



You can help your child by encouraging them to persevere too, especially when the task is tricky. Go on have another go! Please praise their willingness to try and be as independent as possible. This is essential for self-confidence and continued healthy development.

### Physical Development

The fun we will have in our outdoor PE will mostly be with hoops and quoits this term, as we develop hand-eye co-ordination and practise our throwing, catching and rolling skills. We will try hard to improve accuracy and confidence, learning skills that we can use in a whole range of different games. Meanwhile, inside we will be moving our body expressively to music as we continue our dancing and gymnastics.

We will continue to develop an effective pencil grip that allows children to form letters clearly and correctly. Drawing, colouring, painting and other craft activities all help to develop the muscles in the children's hands as well as encouraging careful work. Using scissors is also a focus for us, as we teach children to cut carefully along lines that are both straight and curved. Using single handed tools at home will really help your child in this aspect of their development.

### Creative Development

In our theme 'Aren't animals amazing,' the children will be sculpting animals out of clay amongst other animal themed crafts. When creating pictures, patterns and models we encourage children to use their imagination and to talk about what they are doing, what they will do next and how they will make changes to improve their creation. It is all about trying something new and experimenting with materials. Even when ideas don't work, we will persevere and have another go. During this topic it will give the children many opportunities to practise their fine motor skills and strengthen their muscles in their fingers and hands. You can practise at home by playing with play dough, colouring in, cutting out, sewing and threading. Strong fingers make for neat writers!

### Understanding of the world

Welly Wednesday is great for exploring and learning about the world around us. Again, there will be many conversations, this time about what patterns we can see in nature; for example, spider's webs, frost on the grass and bark on trees. You can help at home by encouraging your child to talk with you when out on a walk in the woods or on your way home from school. 'Oh, tell me more about that' is a useful phrase for encouraging children to talk more about and share their ideas. We will be asking children to notice similarities and differences between things they notice and to also talk about why things happen.

## Welly Wednesdays -

'Welly Wednesday' is part of the 'Forest Schools' programme that runs throughout our school. Many aspects of our 'Understanding the World' curriculum will be taught outside therefore. The weather is now very cold, so please dress your child appropriately in warm clothing (vest, shirt, jumper, thick coat, socks/ tights and wellies, hat and gloves). Without these the children really do get very cold and we have not the resources to dress many children ourselves.

Please ensure that they have a pair of wellies to change into to keep their school shoes clean. Wellies need to be named and placed under your child's peg.

Volunteers are **always** very welcome on 'Welly Wednesdays', indeed on any day.



Come on, join in the fun!

2simple is the communication app that we use to enable you see how your child is learning in school.

It's a great way to share information and photos are always a lovely treasure to keep. Children grow so fast and so quickly!

Please check your emails as we will be sending more photos home throughout the year.

“Through learning we become able to do something we were never able to do.” Peter Senge

## Our School Library

Your child has the splendid opportunity to borrow and exchange books from our school library. Simply take your child to the library, choose a book and return it to the same place. This can be done as often as you wish to. Sharing books and bedtime stories will support your child to progress towards Early Learning Goals in the summer term, being able to read simple sentences on their own. Children who share stories with an adult on a regular basis find learning to read so much easier.

You will find that there is a wide selection of great bed time stories to choose from in our library.

### School visit

Please keep a look out for a letter about an exciting school visit. We will be needing volunteers too.

## Home activities –

As a parent/carer, you are your child's most important educator. Research shows us time and time again that parents who are actively involved with their child's learning help their children to achieve more.

Have a look at the websites below for ideas of how to help your child

### **Maths and literacy (phonics) -based activities and support:-**

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting>

[www.ictgames.co.uk](http://www.ictgames.co.uk) has a whole host of counting to 20 games; phonic activities and key word reading games ( I,no.,go, she, we ).

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> aimed at supporting children to sound out simple words (cat = c.a.t) and blend sounds to make new words ( sh.e.d = shed).

More ideas will be shared with you via the school Newsletter.

**As you know reading is a key life skill, so one that is crucial for us to develop with our children. Please read as often as you can with your child, using bedtime stories and books from school. Key words and phonics will develop in this way. Reading at least three times per week for 10 minutes will support the positive development of your child. If you have any concerns or questions related to reading please speak with any member of our team. Remember please comment in your child's diary.**

## Spring

### Diary Dates

January Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>- Reception and KS1 Balance bike festival at SHS

February

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup>- Join in with our learning
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - School visit
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Non uniform day £1.00 donation to support much needed school funds.  
Thank you for supporting this.  
- break for half term

March

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – balanceability bike skills
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – sports week begins
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Parents evening
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – parents evening
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Mums and grandmas invited in for celebrations 2.30pm
  - Non uniform day £1.00 donation to support much needed school funds.  
Thank you for supporting this.
  - Break for the Easter holiday