

Dear Parents/Carers

Reception Newsletter – Spring Term 2010

Our themes for this term are 'Superheroes' and 'Growth and New Life'. This half term, we will be working on a subject close to the hearts of many children; 'Superheroes'. We will talk with the children about characters they already know and will use clips from 'The Incredibles' to discuss the special powers and characteristics of the 'Supers'. During the topic, we will be covering all areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We will have a visit from the current world champion ice carver and will relate his skills to Superhero characters we know. We will experiment with ice and flavoured ice cubes and use the weather as a resource! We will also talk about real life heroes past and present and hope to arrange visits from police officers and fire fighters.

In the second half term, we will focus on the topic 'Growth and New Life'. We will grow seeds and observe and record changes, using our garden as a resource. We will also focus on the life cycles of animals and will learn about animals which hatch or are born in Spring.

Both topics will provide children with opportunities to develop personal, social and emotional skills through role play, practical exploration and investigative tasks throughout our learning environments. Children will have many opportunities for creative activities and for developing their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. In the 'workshop area' children will have the opportunity to play with a range of objects. They will be able to explore the properties of materials and will be encouraged to speculate on the reasons why things happen and how things work. They will have lots of objects to play with that work in different ways, for example, padlocks and keys, whisks, torches, pulleys, construction kits etc. They will find out why things are attracted to a magnet and learn to light a bulb using a simple circuit. Please do talk with your child about the things you see in the workshop area as we will be encouraging them to ask questions about why things happen and how things work.

During the term, our Religious Education teaching will focus on new life and stories from Christianity and other faiths. We will focus particularly on Chinese New Year during the last week of this half term.

In Problem Solving, Reasoning and Number, we will be introducing children to the mathematical names for 3D shapes and the mathematical term to describe these shapes. They will be comparing the lengths of objects, ordering objects according to length and measuring with arbitrary units of measurement. We will continue to work on the ordering of numbers to 20 and beyond and will be teaching the children to add and subtract to 5 and then 10. The children will continue to do lots of

sorting, ordering, counting, labelling and classifying activities too. Please help your child to form the numerals correctly as this will really help them when they are recording their work.

Within our daily phonics teaching, we will continue to extend children's knowledge, practising blending sounds to read and segmenting to spell. We will be introducing new digraphs (e.g. ch, sh, th, ng) and trigraphs (e.g. igh, ure) which will help children develop their communication, language and literacy skills. The children will be encouraged to use their phonic skills through a range of games and self initiated activities.

Children will continue the same pattern of reading and library days. Thank you for your comments in the reading records, it is important that reading is seen as a partnership between home and school. As well as individual reading, children will continue to take part in guided reading activities where they read captions and sentences, play word building games and use interactive games on the computers.

How you can help at home

- Reading and sharing books with your child.
- Looking at print in the environment: road signs, labels, shopping lists etc -encourage children to sound out what they can see.
- Counting and looking at numbers in and around the home: e.g. counting steps, sweets in a pack, toys on the shelf etc
- Sing familiar nursery rhymes and counting songs.
- Encourage children to hold a pencil properly and to form their letters and numbers correctly.
- Encourage independence in dressing and undressing as well as getting ready for going out in the cold weather.
- Talk about the learning log challenge and encourage children to complete the task themselves (with support of course!)
- Praise and encourage your child's efforts to boost their self esteem.

Please see one of us at the earliest opportunity if you have any worries, questions or concerns.

We look forward to a busy and exciting term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Balaam, Mrs Davis, Mrs Greene, Mrs Hill, Mrs Runacres and Miss Soper