



## Reception Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half term break. The children have all been eager to share their holiday news and they are looking forward to starting a new theme this half term.

### Our Themes:

This half term our theme is called 'Why Do Cows Drink Milk?' We will be finding out about farms and the different types of animals and baby animals that live on the farm. We will be talking about where food comes from and looking at farm machinery and vehicles which help to harvest the crops. We are going to plant seeds and beans, and talk about what they need to be healthy and stay alive. Finally we will also be celebrating and talking about the meaning of Easter. Here is a quick overview of our weekly themes for this half term:

**Week 1** - On the Farm - 'What the Ladybird Heard'

**Week 2** - Farm Animals - Mothers and Babies.

**Week 3** - Where does food come from?  
'The Little Red Hen'

**Week 4** - Planting Seeds/Growing -  
'Jasper's Beanstalk'

**Week 5** - Easter story and activities

Children are welcome to bring in books or objects relating to our themes to share with their friends or put out on display.

### Literacy:



**Reading and Writing** - We will be sharing a range of farm related stories and retelling the stories through 'Talk for Writing' and story mapping activities. We are encouraging children to rehearse stories from memory to support early story writing.

**Phonics** - This half term, we will be completing the phase 3 sounds *oi, ow, er, ear, air, ure*. We will continue to send these letter sounds, words, and other phonic activities home until the end of this half term. Next half term our homework will be changing and we will not be sending any more sounds home. We will appreciate it if you could continue to practise the sounds you have and make words on the word maker with them. At school we will be revising the phase 3 sounds and encouraging the children to use these sounds to read and write words and simple sentences.

**Bug Club** - It is lovely to see that children are reading lots of books at home online and are enjoying spending their coins! Bug Club books are carefully selected for children at the appropriate reading stage for your child. Children are welcome to choose a book from a range of colour banded boxes at school. This will be a book that children can choose by themselves. Please try to keep these books in book bags so they can be swapped at school.

### Maths:



In maths, we will continue to sequence and recognise numbers to 20, and we will be practising number formation. Children will be using counters, number lines and mental recall to add and take away. We will also be exploring different ways of making 10, using everyday language related to money

in a farm shop and a garden centre. The children have been learning to count in groups of 2 and 10, so we will be encouraging children to solve problems e.g. *'An apple costs 10p....how many 2p's do we need to make 10p?'*

### Reminders:

- **Cool Milk** - Children under 5 receive free milk. Parents with children over 5 will be asked to pay a supplemented fee for milk. Some children have been enjoying free milk but now they have turned 5, are no longer appearing on the list to have milk. If you have decided that your child isn't going to have milk, we invite those children to bring in a water bottle every day. If your child is 5 and you wish for them to continue having milk every day, please contact Cool Milk to make arrangements to pay for the milk. Children will then be added to the list we receive each week.
- **Tapestry** - You should have all received an email to activate your child's Learning Journal online. It has been lovely to read parents comments and hear children talking about the photographs they have been looking at with you at home. You are welcome to upload your own photographs from home for us to see e.g. if your child has spotted something around the house with a sound in we have been learning at school, an experience you think your child might like us to know about to prompt a conversation at school. We endeavour to upload observations and photographs of each child regularly, but as you can appreciate, at busy times in school, there may be quieter times. Please contact a member of staff if you need another email sending to you to access your child's journal.
- **Swimming** - After the Easter holiday, children in Reception will begin using the school swimming pool once a week to develop water confidence, with the support of a swimming teacher and members of staff. The swimming lessons will replace our PE lesson. **Children will need a swimming bag, swimming costumes/trunks, swimming hat for girls or boys with longer hair styles, verruca sock if needed and a towel.** School will provide floats to wear on their backs. More information about this will be sent out nearer the time.

### Diary Dates:

- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** - Class Photos
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Dressing up for World Book Day** - Children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character.
- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Celebration Assembly** - Children in Reception are invited to bring in certificates, medals or trophies to show in assembly. Parents are invited to come and watch this assembly.
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March (14:00 - 18:00) and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March (14:00 - 17:30) Parent Consultation Meetings**  
These meetings will take place during the afternoon on both days. Sign-up sheets are available with an adult at the door at the beginning and end of the school day.

Thank you parents and carers for your continuing help and support!

The Reception Team

