



Harwell Community Primary School

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FC NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to school. We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New year. We have been so impressed with how all of the children have settled back into school and made such a wonderful start to this term Well done FC!

CHILD INITIATED LEARNING: A significant part of our day is dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play to Learn). Children at this stage in their development learn best through active, self-initiated activities. They learn in the here and now. It is in these moments of curiosity, effort or interest – the ‘teachable’ moment – that the adult makes a difference. The adults are always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child’s thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children’s wellbeing and learning (planning for the next moment). There will be three Focus Children each week (aligned with the Leaders of the Week). These children are given an additional focus for these 1:1 ‘In the Moment’ teaching opportunities. At the end of the week a record of these learning opportunities will be uploaded to Tapestry alongside the associated photos and videos. ‘Wow’ moments of learning will continue to be recorded on Tapestry for all children alongside this approach.

PHONICS We will be continuing with our phonics this term to consolidate the children’s recognition of the Set 1 phonemes learnt last term, to develop their blending skills to read (c-a-t is ‘cat’) and their segmenting skills to spell (knowing ‘cat’ is c-a-t). We will then be moving onto the RWI Set 2 sounds: ay ee igh ow oo ar or air ir ou oy. Reading books will begin to be sent home in the next few weeks to enable the children to practise this learning with you.

MATHS The children will have a daily maths lesson. The curriculum is split into ‘Number’ and ‘Shape, space and measure’. We will be using Numberblocks to support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be exploring one more and one less, number bonds to 5, sorting and starting to look at addition to 10. Alongside our whole class teaching there is the on-going opportunity for children to develop these skills during their child-initiated learning (Play to Learn).

HELICOPTER STORIES Children are natural storytellers. In FC we encourage the children to ‘tell’ us their stories. These are scribed by the adult into our special storybook. The children are encouraged to write their names, draw a picture from their story and sometimes they are even encouraged to write some letters and words within their story, but the focus remains on their oral storytelling. The stories are scribed exactly as the children tell them. We will then sit as a class and the children are able to act out their stories alongside other children taking on other roles in their story. This develops a huge variety of skills including communication, literacy and confidence. Photographs of your child’s story will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to be able to read them.

P.E. In P.E. this term the children will be focusing on 'Movement' and exploring this through different well-known stories. During their Friday with Mrs Chapman the children will explore and develop a range of gross and fine motor skills.

WILD WOOD On Thursday afternoons we will continue with our learning in the woodland. Please ensure your children have coats, hats, gloves, wellies and spare socks/tights. These visits will allow for a wealth of learning activities including bug hunting, artwork, construction activities, teamwork, understanding weather and seasons, story inspired work and developing our understanding of the world. We will be using the story 'The Gruffalo' as a stimulus for our woodland learning.

GENERAL INFORMATION Mrs Wells will be teaching the class on a Monday to Thursday and Mrs Chapman will be teaching on a Friday.

- As part of the 'Focus Child' approach, we will send home an information sheet for you to contribute to when it is your child's week. These weeks will match with when your child is a Leader of the Week. Please complete and return these to school as requested. At any time we invite you to share achievements in your child's learning at home via Tapestry. *There are some families who have not yet activated their Tapestry account. This is an integral part of how we can work together so I would urge anyone who has not currently got access to complete this set up. I have re-sent activation emails to the email accounts which had yet to be activated. If you have never provided an email account then please let me have an up to date email address and I can send the links out. If you have any difficulties accessing then please just come and ask and I am very happy to help you set it up and show you how you can use it!*
- Please ensure all belongings, uniform and PE kit are named clearly.
- Please remember to bring in a water bottle each day and a coat, hat and gloves.
- A fruit snack is provided for the children to access freely during their Play to Learn time. Milk is also available.
- Once your child is bringing reading books home it is important to support your child in regular opportunities to develop their skills. A little everyday will have a greater impact than only reading once a week. Please use the reading record books we provide to record this (just a date and note of 'read' as a minimum). Reading books and reading records need to be brought in to school every day.
- Ollie the Owl is our class owl who likes to visit children as a reward. Ollie will come home in a bag with a book for your child to record the visit (drawings, photos, writing – your child's mark making and adult scribing as appropriate etc).
- During a Friday Celebration Assembly there are three different awards given out for the week. These certificates are: Good Learner; Kindness; and Harwell Star.
- We have had many replies to the children from their letters sent before Christmas. If you know your friend/family member has yet to reply can you please give them a little reminder.
- We will phasing out the indoor/outdoor shoe arrangement. This will happen from the summer term onwards. However, in the meantime if your child grows out of their indoor or outdoor shoes then just ensure they have one pair of school shoes they can wear in and out. If they also have wellies then these will be used when it is wet and muddy outside. Any questions about this then please just ask.
- Throughout the Spring term the children should continue to be dropped off at our class gate from 8.40.
- Our class outcome will be on Tuesday 11th February at 2pm. Further details will be sent out in due course.
- Our cake stall is on Friday 31st January. Further details will be sent out about this.

TIMETABLE OVERVIEW

	Morning	Afternoon
MON Mrs Wells	Phonics Child Initiated Learning Leader of the Week Maths	Dough Disco Child Initiated Learning Assembly Story
TUES Mrs Wells	Phonics Child Initiated Learning Maths	Dance/Yoga Leader of the Week Child Initiated Learning Helicopter Story Performances

		Do you know?
WED Mrs Wells	Phonics Child Initiated Learning Leader of the Week Maths	Dough Disco Child Initiated Learning Assembly Story
THURS Mrs Wells	Phonics Child Initiated Learning Maths	Dance/Yoga Leader of the Week Wild Wood Helicopter Story Performances Story
FRI Mrs Chapman	Phonics P.E. Child Initiated Learning	Leader of the Week Story Celebration Assembly Child Initiated Learning