

I hope you all had a wonderful Half term break. This letter outlines our learning this term (thankfully back at school very soon). There will also be time for the children to settle back into school, for us to support their wellbeing and for them to enjoy playing together again!

Child Initiated Learning (Play): A significant part of our day is dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). It is in 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. 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 all these learning opportunities will be uploaded to Tapestry alongside the associated photos and videos. ‘Wow’ moments of learning throughout the week for all children will be recorded on Tapestry alongside this approach.

Phonics & Reading We will continue through the Read Write Inc scheme for phonics teaching. This term we will be consolidating our recognition of all the Set 1 sounds, especially the ‘special friends’ – th sh ch qu ng nk. The children will be developing their reading skills (blending the sounds together to read the word) and their writing (segmenting the sounds in a word). Some children will be moving onto the Set 2 sounds (ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or ir air ou oy). We will continue to develop our recognition by sight of red words. The Oxford Owl website provides resources for parents to support your own understanding of phonics and also ideas on how to support your child <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/> It is very important to continue reading at home regularly and ensuring their books and reading records are brought into school every day.

Maths We follow the White Rose Maths scheme. The children will continue to have a daily maths lesson. We will be using Numberblocks to support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on developing our understanding of the numbers 9 and 10. We will compare the numbers to 10 and explore number bonds to make 10. We will also work on making and continuing repeating patterns and learn about some of the 3D shapes (cube, sphere, cylinder and cone).

Helicopter Stories The children’s stories have been wonderful this year. We will continue to scribe their stories into our book. 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.

Message Centre This approach has been developed to sprinkle joy, excitement and a love of messaging into their play. This begins with secret symbols then moves to letters and words and the children hide and find these messages around our classroom and in their play. It aims to give children the confidence to have a go at mark-making/writing; it allows them to be creative and use their imagination and discover real purposes to writing. We have a message centre area in the classroom. Perhaps your child will begin hiding secret messages at home too! This term we will further develop our messaging to include more words.

Drawing Club These sessions explore the magic of stories through drawings. It aims to develop language skills, vocabulary, mark-making, mathematics and their imaginative skills. The stories we will be using are The tiger who came to tea, Not now Bernard, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and using an episode of Wacky Races.

RE and PSHE In RE we will be exploring the idea of “What is Easter?” We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be “Healthy Me”.

PE Once we return to school then our PE will be on a Friday so the children should come to school wearing their PE kit. We will be developing our gymnastics skills so we can jump off an object and land well, move around, under, over and through climbing equipment. We will also have good control and co- ordination for both small and large movements.

Woodlands & Nature Study On Monday afternoons we will explore our on-site woodland. We aim to develop an enjoyment and curiosity of nature. This term our focus will be on 'Spring'. We will explore rain, spring flowers, seeds, baby animals and rainbows. We will continue our development of the woodland learning area. We now have new seating and a digging area. We have developed a nature area of the classroom and aim to develop these fascinations and curiosities throughout the week beyond the woodland visits.

Dough Disco, Cosmic Yoga and Just Dance We have sessions using one of these approaches several times a week. These aim to develop both gross and fine motor skills.

Bright Ideas Time This is a whole school science initiative which we have adapted in FC. Twice a week we explore 'Big questions' or discuss 'Odd one out'. These questions have visual prompts and allow the children to share their own ideas and thinking where there are no 'right' answers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Once we return to school then we will continue our 'Focus Child' approach. We will send home an information sheet for you to contribute to when it will be your child's week. Please complete and return these to school as requested.
- **Please ensure all uniform and belongings are named clearly.** This helps us to get stray items back to the correct owner quickly! At the end of the Autumn term we had a significant increase in unnamed clothing.
- Please remember to bring in a named water bottle each day.
- A fruit snack is provided for the children to access freely during the morning. Milk is also available via the Cool Milk scheme.
- Ensure there is a change of clothes in their bags.