



Reception Weekly Newsletter – 14th March 2022

Hello Reception Parents and Carers! This week the children have loved the theme of growing again; this time our focus was on trees. Some of the children got to plant trees that were so kindly donated to our school and some planted gooseberry and blackberry bushes. The children went on a tree hunt and very cleverly used their new vocabulary of evergreen and deciduous to describe them. The children have been watching very closely as their beans are beginning to grow and they are very good at reminding the adults that they need watering and that they need to be in a position to get some warmth from sunlight. In maths, the children were excited by the bigger teen numbers; making sure they pronounced the teen part carefully so that we do not get them confused with the tens numbers eg thirteen and thirty. They loved writing these bigger numbers, taking care to place the numbers in the correct order and form them correctly for example thirteen written as 13 not 31. The children learned how to use the new story telling Yoto players and will continue to experience wonderful stories and accompanying music on them. They also loved listening to the lives of some wonderful women on International Women's Day on Tuesday. All of the teachers are looking forward to sharing the progress your children are making next week at parents' evenings.

Now for the fun we have planned next week which focuses on minibeasts in our gardens – please see below a brief summary of what your child will be up to at school as well as a few reminders. If you have any questions, please email office.hisn@hpp.school and we will try and get back to you as quickly as possible.

This week we will be learning - Week Beginning 14 March 2022

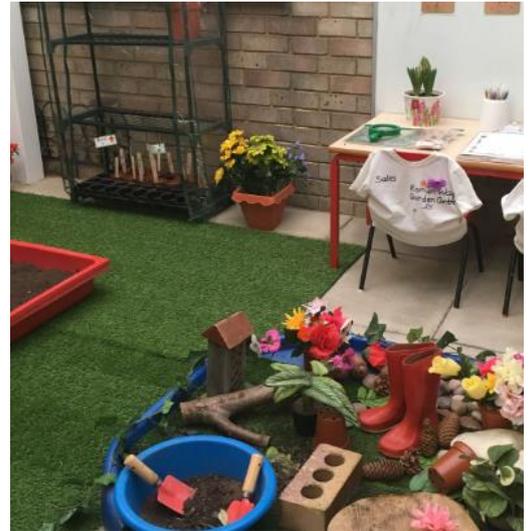
- The focus book for next week is 'The Crunching Munching Caterpillar' and we will use it to think about the creatures that might visit our garden and how important these minibeasts are for our gardens to flourish. We will learn about the magical life cycle of a caterpillar.
- In phonics, we will be recapping all of the sounds we have learnt so far: k/ l/ r/ u /ck /b/ g/ h/ c/ a/ i/ m/ s/ t/ n/ o/ p/ d/ v/ f/ e / j/ w/ z/x/y/ff/ll/ss/zz. The children will build these sounds into simple words and will then have a go at writing the words down. The children are also practising writing simple sentences of up to 10 words now. Our everyday words are: go, has, so. We practise reading and writing these words. We are also introducing the children to sentence starters eg I like, I went and I am.
- Our children will continue to focus on their pencil grip and letter formation in the daily handwriting session. They exercise their hands using funky finger activities which they love. This week we will practise our curly letters **l, t, u, j, y**. The children really love this very gentle activity which allows them to focus on forming a single letter using the rhymes (that we sent home in bookbags).
- In maths, we will continue to recognise, identify and name teen numbers (11 to 20). We will begin to use a number line to add 2 numbers together that equal a teen number. The children will also begin to add two numbers together that total a teen number by thinking of the biggest number in their head for example $4+9=13$; the children will be taught to put 9 in their head and count on 4. They will also be introduced to the idea of symmetry of images.
- Our Expanding Our Vocabulary (EOV) words for this week are: life cycle, caterpillar, St Patrick.
- In PE, the children will be pretending balls are grasshoppers – as they bounce them and catch them.
- The children will learn about who St Patrick was on St Patrick's Day and then as part of Forest Friday they will create an Irish dance in groups outside – responding to the music with their bodies and copying some traditional Irish dance movements.



Urgent call for gardening resources

We are learning about 'growing and life cycles' as our topic. This will mean lots of gardening and planting which we are loving. We are still in the process of turning our outdoor classroom (the polytunnel) into a garden centre and would still welcome donations of the following to help us please:

- Compost
- Small plant pots
- Bean seeds
- Sunflower seeds
- Gardening magazines
- Canes
- Pretend flowers (for the children to role play with)
- Small trays to hold the plant pots whilst they sprout
- Seeds for vegetables
- Seeds for flowers
- Wild flower seeds
- 1p and 2p coins for role play
- Small greenhouse shelves
- Cardboard plant pots
- Wellies



Time to talk

- We all know how important talking at home is for exposing children to a wide range of vocabulary and ideas. This all helps them with their reading and to become future writers. When you are out in your gardens, on a balcony or simply walking in the street take the time to notice insects and talk about them. This could be a factual conversation (when we will see more butterflies) or a fantasy one (imagine if all spiders spun webs of gold) or fact and fantasy combined for example: the snail is celebrating with his snail friends that he is no longer called a pest in the garden as he is now considered 'Planet Friendly' by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

As you walk around outside talk about insects and what they might be up to.

Handwriting with Letter-join

- You will have all received the letter from school sharing our Handwriting focus and log in details for Letter-join. Reception parents are given the opportunity to access the free play option that is shown below when you log on. The children can practise developing their fine motor skills, drawing patterns and easier and harder letters.



Letter-join Home log-in

Our school is now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers at home. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

User name: **jk4404**
Password: **home**

PC Browsers:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome
- Firefox
- Safari

Do not use Internet Explorer.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

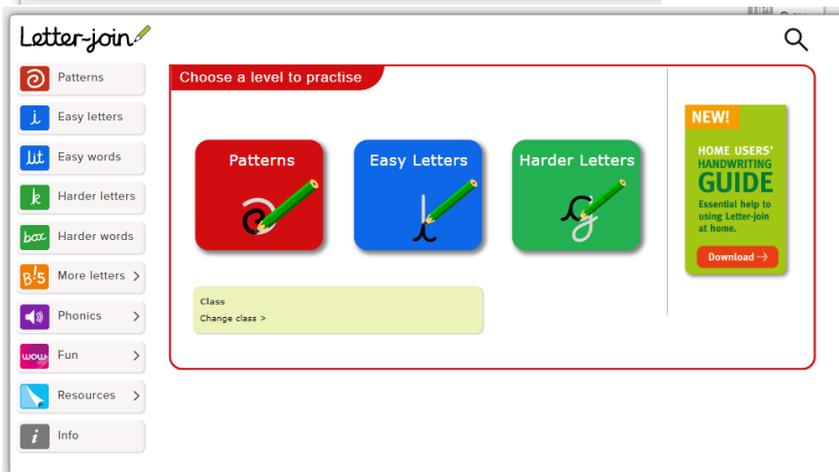
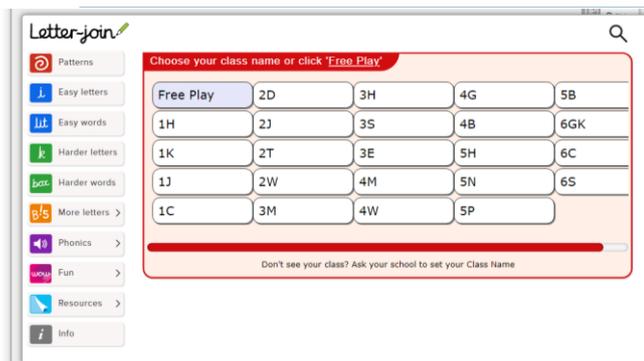
User name: **jk4404**
Swipe code (starting at top left):



Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome, Firefox or Opera.



Some important information and reminders:

- **Gingerbread Person adventure:** Thank you to all those who have shared their Gingerbread person adventures with us. We love sharing the adventures with the class and investigating the postage marks or stamps too. Keep sending them to us please as it brings the children such joy.
- **Urgent call for playdough resources:** The children are always so immersed in their playdough creations as they mould and sculpt all sorts of wonderful creations, but unfortunately, our playdough ingredients



have diminished! If you are happy to donate flour, salt, oil and cream of tartar, we would really appreciate it! Thank you to those of you who have already donated but we still need more please.

- **School Reading Book/Borrow a Book:** We are reading with the children each week and are encouraging the children to read everyday. Please remember to return your child's school reading book on their reading day, as well as their 'Borrow a Book' book. It will also be great to read your feedback about your child's progress with their reading at home in the parents comments section of their Reading diary each week.
- **Oxford Reading Buddy:** Please do continue to access Oxford Reading Buddy at home as it is a great way to support your child with their reading. You will find their logins stuck into the front cover of their reading records.
- **Pick Up Location:** The end of the day pick up locations are remaining the same as the end of Autumn 2. The Reception children will be dismissed in front of the climbing frame, with RF closest to the green school gates, followed by RW, then RDC and ending with RY closest to the school. Not to worry if you get a little lost, there is signage to show the location of each class. Once you have collected your child, please exit promptly and in front of the red chairs so that we can keep the line moving.
- **Junk Modelling resources:** Along with messy play, the children love to build all sorts of wonderful things using all sorts of junk they find around the house. If you have any junk modelling resources, we would be more than happy to take these. **Just a quick note to say that we are not taking any food boxes or wrappers.** For junk modelling resources ideas, please see below.
 - toilet roll/kitchen roll tubes
 - shoe boxes
 - glitter
 - pipe cleaners
 - pom poms
 - bottles and bottle lids
 - toothpaste tubes
 - straws
 - fabric
 - googly eyes
 - CDs

Cooking at home

How about making these Wiggly Caterpillar Buns at home?



These fab wiggly caterpillar buns are easy to make and are brilliant for making mini sandwiches. We love their little olive eyes
MAKES 8

1. Tip the bread mix into a large bowl. Add the oil and rub in with your fingertips, then quickly stir in 340ml warm water, until it comes together to a sticky dough. Tip the dough onto a floured surface and knead for 10-15 minutes, until smooth and elastic – it should spring back to the touch.



2. Grease a large bowl with the extra olive oil. Put the dough in the bowl, cover with cling film and leave in a warm, dry place until it has doubled in size – about 1 hour.
3. Knock the air out of the dough and knead briefly. Divide the dough into 8 pieces and cover with a clean tea towel. Take one portion at a time and divide into 5 pieces of graduating size. Roll the pieces into balls.
4. Line a baking tray with baking parchment, then place the balls in a line, in descending size order, so they are just touching each other (bend in a slight 'c' shape to form a caterpillar shape). Repeat with the remaining dough pieces.
5. Brush the caterpillar buns all over with some of the beaten egg, make cuts for mouths, then press on the olive slices for eyes. Leave to rise for a second time – about 30 minutes. Brush all over again with the remaining beaten egg.
6. While the caterpillars are rising, preheat the oven to 200°C, fan 180°C, gas 6. Bake the caterpillars for 30 minutes, until golden and they sound hollow when tapped.