



Reception Weekly Newsletter – 25th February 2022

Hello Reception Parents and Carers! We have had a very happy first week back this week as we have been learning about making things grow. The children loved the story about Eddie and his Garden, in particular the part where Eddie sneaks out at night to pick up slugs and protect his garden. They are very clever at recounting the things that gardens need to grow including time; we realised that we need to be patient when we plant seeds/beans. We will continue to watch our plants grow next week. Every class loved the bingo in maths and enjoyed using the part part whole models to find 2 numbers that when added together make 9 and 10. Along with the whole school, the children are thoroughly enjoying their daily handwriting sessions and their rich and varied reading opportunities everyday.

Next week we will be learning - Week Beginning 28 February 2022

- The focus for next week is **World Book Day** and exciting activities linked to this. One of the books we will focus on is 'Monkey Puzzle'. On Thursday the children can come into school dressed as their favourite book character. Across Reception, we will be creating a story, each class will create either the beginning, the build up, the dilemma or the end of the story and then we will all hear the whole story together for the first time with Miss Tester. We are very excited about this as our children create such wonderful helicopter stories and so we know they will be very creative and imaginative. On Friday, we will be visited by the authors Lucy Reynolds and Jenna Herman.
- As part of our Shrove Tuesday/Pancake day activities we will decorate our own **wooden spoon**. Each child will need a wooden spoon with their name on. We will also talk about what Shrove Tuesday represents and why we have pancakes. We will talk about ingredients we need to make pancakes and toppings we might add to pancakes.
- 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 and will introduce the 2 letter sounds ss and zz. The children will be building 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 more often now. Our everyday words are: all, said and have. We practise reading and writing these words.
- The 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 **y, z, ff and ll**. 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 are learning to add 2 and 3 numbers together to find the total, using cubes or other objects which we will then write down as a number sentence ($5+4=9$). We will talk about how the numbers get bigger when we add. Then we will learn how to subtract an amount to find a total and we will talk to the children about taking an amount away.



- In PE, the children will take part in a Dance workshop in the hall with a company called West End in Schools. This will be designed to retell a familiar story we have looked at together – The Gingerbread Man. We are very excited for that.
- Forest Friday – we will pretend to be busy bees and talk about how bees live and where. We will roll pollen balls and placing the ball on a body part when the Queen Bee tells us to.

Some important information and reminders:

Urgent call for Wooden spoons

- Please send a wooden spoon in with your child for them to decorate themselves.

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 can’t wait for. We are planning to turn our outdoor classroom (the polytunnel) into a garden centre and would 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. How often do we share our love of reading with our family members? We encourage you as parents to take a moment to think about books you loved as a child and why you loved them. Tell your children your favourite books. This will help them to see the excitement and joy they can get from reading in the future; it will inspire our budding readers.

Talk about the books that you enjoy reading and share reasons why.



Cooking at home

Shrove Tuesday is 1st March and we are sure many of you are planning what you might add on top of your pancakes. Here are some ideas that might help inspire you.



What fruits could you use to make a fabulous pancake face?

These are some more unusual savoury ideas:



Spinach, ricotta, lemon zest and extra virgin olive oil

Cottage cheese, chopped fresh herbs, streaky bacon, lemon zest

Sliced figs, Parma ham, rocket and extra virgin olive oil

Roasted cherry tomatoes, rocket and balsamic vinegar