



Reception Weekly Newsletter – 25th March 2022

Hello Reception Parents and Carers! Spring has sprung! We wanted to start this newsletter with a thank you for all of the stamped addressed envelopes we have received so far and to remind any parents who have not yet done so to send them in on Monday at the latest please. These envelopes will be taken by each child to the local postbox escorted by teachers and volunteer helpers. RF are posting their cards on Monday afternoon; RW are posting theirs on Tuesday afternoon, RDC are posting theirs on Wednesday afternoon and RY are posting theirs on Thursday afternoon.

This week the children have loved the story of Oscar and the Frog; they marvelled at how an egg becomes a tadpole which then becomes a frog. They enjoyed writing some sentences about this story in colourful semantics. The children enjoyed the small world area with frogs and logs and singing the 5 little speckled frogs song. Our beans are growing so beautifully and they are sturdy enough to be planted outside where the children can continue to watch them grow. In maths, the children continued to be excited by the bigger teen numbers and using part part whole models to show 2 numbers that when added together make a teen number total. They continue to practise using a 0 to 20 number line and have enjoyed working out which numbers are missing on a numberline. The children loved pretending to be caterpillars in PE and there were some amazing dribbling skills.

Now for the fun we have planned next week which focuses on Easter – 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 28th March 2022

- The focus story for next week is 'The Night Before Easter' which explores how families celebrate Easter and the magic of the Easter Bunny.
- 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 8 words now. Our everyday words are: like, the, are. 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 v, w, x, z. 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 exploring patterns in the world around us and revisiting the properties of shape .
- Our Expanding Our Vocabulary (EOV) words for this week are: Easter, pattern, postbox.
- The children will each take a trip to the postbox on the afternoons we have written above. They will have to be so independent as they post their own cards. They will also take part in a special Easter surprise on Wednesday afternoon in school as well.
- We will finish the week with an early home time of 1.10pm on Friday 1st April.



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. An idea this week is for you to talk about what you might enjoy doing in the Easter holidays. Ideas might include: a Spring walk to spot all of the flowers and insects that are coming out in the sun. Reading a book in the park on a bench. Counting how many birds or butterflies you can see. Dribbling a ball or trying to catch it. Looking for shapes in the world around you.



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

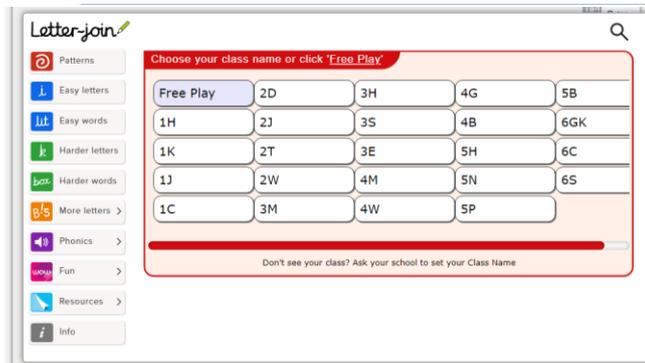
Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

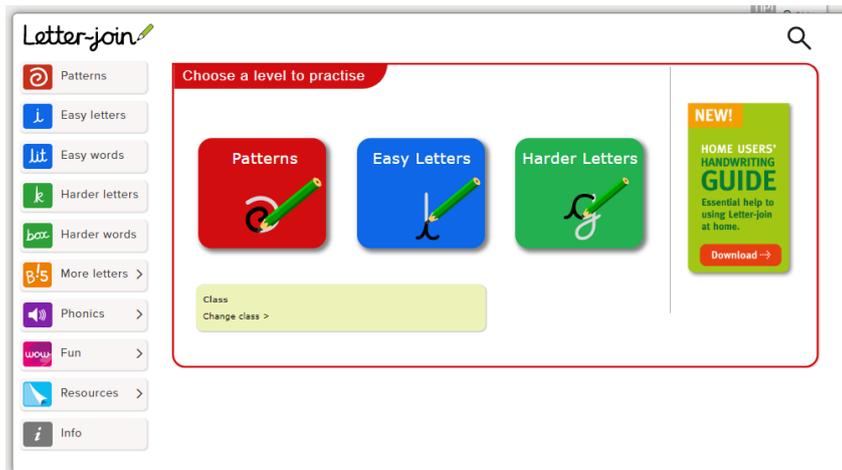
User name: **jk4404**
Swipe code (starting at top left):



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:

- **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. We will not be sending home reading books over the holiday but please do use Oxford Reading Buddy. The children will also have the opportunity to choose a book to borrow – which is one you can share together.
- **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. 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.
- **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 – Easter biscuits



Ingredients

- 300g plain flour , plus extra for dusting
- 150g white caster sugar
- 150g slightly salted butter , chopped
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste

For the iced option

- 500g royal icing sugar
- your favourite food colouring gels

For the jammy middle option

- icing sugar, for dusting
- 400g apricot jam, or lemon curd

Method

• STEP 1

Weigh the flour and sugar in a bowl. Add the butter and rub together with your fingertips until the mixture resembles wet sand, with no buttery lumps. Beat the egg with the vanilla, then add to the bowl. Mix briefly with a cutlery knife to combine, then use your hands to knead the dough together – try not to overwork the dough, or the biscuits will be tough. Shape into a disc, then wrap in cling film and chill for at least 15 mins. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line two baking sheets with baking parchment.

• STEP 2

Dust a work surface with flour. Halve the dough, then roll one half out to the thickness of a £1 coin. Use an egg-shaped cookie cutter (ours was 10cm long; you could also make a cardboard template to cut around) to stamp out as many cookies as you can, then transfer them to one of the baking sheets, leaving a little space between the biscuits. Repeat with the other half of the dough. If you want to make jammy biscuits, use a small circular cutter to stamp holes in half of the biscuits (where the yolk would be). If you intend to make both iced and jammy biscuits, only stamp holes in a quarter of the biscuits.

• STEP 3



Bake for 12-15 mins, until the biscuits are pale gold. Cool on the sheets for 10 mins, then transfer to a wire rack to cool fully. Once cool, decorate to your liking (see next steps). *Will keep in an airtight container for up to five days.*

- **STEP 4**

To decorate the biscuits with icing, add enough water to the icing sugar to make a thick icing – it should hold its shape without spreading when piped. Transfer about a third of the icing to a piping bag fitted with a very small round nozzle (or just snip a tiny opening at the tip). Pipe an outline around the biscuits, then draw patterns in the middle – lines, spots and zigzags work well. Leave to dry for 10 mins. Divide the remaining icing between as many colours as you'd like to use, then use the gels to dye them. Loosen each icing with a few drops of water, then transfer them to piping bags. Use the coloured icing to fill the empty spaces on the biscuits. You may need to use a cocktail stick to tease it into the corners. Once covered, leave to dry for a few hours.

- **STEP 5**

To make the jammy middle biscuits, dust the biscuits with holes in the middle with a heavy coating of icing sugar. Spread the jam or curd generously over the whole biscuits, then sandwich the dusted biscuits on top of them.