



Reception Weekly Newsletter – 4th March 2022

Hello Reception Parents and Carers! What an exciting week we have had this week...full of pancakes and books. The children loved the story Monkey Puzzle and enjoyed trying to guess which animal the butterfly might show the monkey next. They enjoyed retelling the story using animals, butterflies and other small world props. The beans we planted last week are being observed and cared for and the children are showing such patience. It will be amazing when we start to see the first shoots. Thank you to everyone for the gardening contributions which we are putting to such great use. Our addition and subtractions maths lessons have given the children the opportunity to see how numbers grow when we add and numbers get smaller when we take away (subtract) through play with cuddly toy picnics and the children's favourite – the hot cross bun song. Along with the whole school, the children are thoroughly enjoying their daily handwriting sessions and their rich and varied reading opportunities everyday. This week the children have had such exciting activities linked to Pancake Day and World Book Day. They have been creating their perfect pancake, decorating it with amazing toppings that are improving our cutting skills. The children loved their Dance workshop about the Gingerbread man and were so delighted to see each other's costumes on World Book Day. They also loved the author visit by Jenna Herman and Lucy Reynolds on Friday; we were so proud of how enthusiastic the children were and how well they listened to the authors.

Now for the fun we have planned next week which focuses on gardens again – 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 11th March 2022

- The focus book for next week is 'Mrs Noah's Garden' which looks at what we need to grow plants and flowers. This week in our garden (along with Years 1 and 2) we will be helping to plant trees. This is set to be a very special experience as planting trees is not an everyday activity in a garden. We will talk about different varieties of trees and as we move into Spring we will talk about how trees are changing.
- The children will learn how to use the new Yoto players carefully and kindly in the classroom through our colourful semantics lesson. These Yoto players expose children to a new media where they have to follow several sequential steps to listen to a story or play music linked to that story.
- The children will also think about important women in their lives in celebration of International Women's Day on Tuesday. We will think about what it means to be inspired by people.
- 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 more often now. Our everyday words are: are, put and all. 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 **c, a, s, o, d, g**. The children really



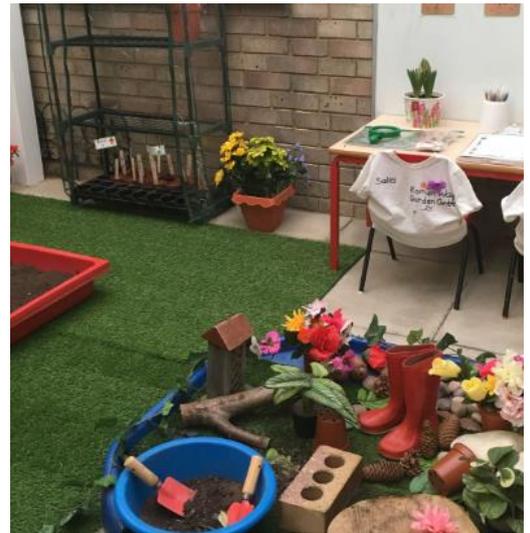
love this very gentle activity which allows them to focus on forming a single letter using the rhymes (that we sent home in bookbags).

- In maths, we are learning to recognise, identify and name teen numbers (11 to 20). The children will play eye spy and will have a range of opportunities to practise number formation and finding groups of objects to represent the teen numbers.
- Our Expanding Our Vocabulary (EOV) words for this week are: deciduous, evergreen, Yoto player
- In PE, the children will be performing beanbags in activities to pretend they are ladybirds and butterflies.
- Forest Friday – the children will be investigating the trees that have been planted and other trees around the school in a Tree Hunt where they will have to record their findings

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. As we are planting trees this week we thought it would be exciting for the children to look for trees with their families – trees they can see from their windows, on a walk or in their gardens.

As you walk around outside talk about the trees that you see and explore words you can use to describe them.



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.
- **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

Think about how you can turn your dinner into a tree. Perhaps a salad with added breadsticks or sausages as a tree trunk with green beans as branches.



Perhaps you could try making rice cake fairy faces using salad.

