



Reception Class Newsletter

Spring Term 2024



Welcome back and Happy New Year! We would like to thank you for the lovely cards and presents and hope that you all had a good Christmas. The children had a great first term in Reception and we are looking forward to this term and some exciting activities. The children are developing their independent skills and it is fantastic to see how much they have progressed since September.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Animal Antics'. We will be investigating features and habitats of different animals in different parts of the world. We will be using the Natural History Museum website to help us with our research as well as a range of non-fiction texts. The music 'Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saens will be a starting point for us to explore animals from different countries and habitats, including the polar habitat, the African plains and the ocean. We will begin to find out about climate change, how it impacts on different animals and how we can look after our environment.

Communication, Language and Literacy

The children have done well with their phonics and are now working on using their sounds to blend and segment words both orally and when reading and writing. We are starting children on our reading scheme as and when they are ready, following our regular assessment and tracking of their phonic skills. Please don't be concerned if your child has not brought home a reading book with words yet, they are still able to practice and develop the skills needed through retelling the story, predicting and discussing the story and sharing a range of storybooks at home with you. Reading a range of quality books to your child and encouraging them to re-tell stories, discuss the characters and predict events are really important areas that you can support your child with, as well as helping them identify letters, rhyming words and familiar words. There are lots of wonderful books that you can read to your child which will encourage their love of books, develop their vocabulary and support their developing reading skills. Some that they might enjoy include: The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr, Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd and Would You Rather by John Burningham. There are lots more recommended books on the Book Trust Web site:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

This term we will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to help us research animals. We will be looking at and describing characters, making fact files about different creatures and use stories such as 'Handa's Surprise', 'Dear Zoo' and 'Walking Through the Jungle' to inspire the children's writing and story-telling.

Mathematical Development

This term we will be focusing on numbers to 10; counting, estimating, ordering numbers, recognising numerals and counting on and back from a given number. We will be having lots of fun solving practical problems using addition and subtraction, partitioning sets of objects and reading simple addition and subtraction sums. We will also be comparing size, mass and capacity as well as exploring length, height and time. The children have made super progress with their maths and are enjoying using 'Numberblocks' to support their learning. You can continue to support their mathematical development at home through counting, encouraging them to recognise numerals at home and when they are out and about, playing games involving dice and through encouraging them to write numerals.

P.E

The Reception class will be taking part in P.E sessions every Wednesday. They will need to continue to come to school in their P.E. kit on a Wednesday. Please ensure that all your child's kit and school uniform is clearly named so that we are able to identify and return any lost items.

Water Bottles

Please can I remind you that we encourage the children to bring a water bottle every day. It is very important that the children have the opportunity to drink water throughout the day as this benefits their development and learning. We ask for water and not juice/squash in their bottles as water is the healthy option and then we don't have any sticky spillages.

Toast

Please could you either choose for your child to have toast from school or a snack from home for morning break not both as our snack café is only open for a short time each morning. The snack café enables the children to choose when to have their snack. It also provides them with the opportunity to develop their independence by selecting their snack and also pouring their own drink into a cup.

Phonics Workshops

Just to let you know there will be two Phonics Workshop for parents on Wednesday 7th February at 2.15pm and 5.30pm. We would love it if you were able to attend one of these sessions. The workshops will show you how we use the Animaphonics scheme in school and will give you some top tips for helping your children at home.

Remember if you wish to contact me, then please drop me an email at staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Astley

