



Reception Class, Summer Term

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This term our topics are: 'In the Garden' and 'Minibeasts.'

In the first half-term, we will be retelling the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and then focussing on non-fiction writing in the form of bean diaries. In the second term we will be reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'What the Ladybird Heard.'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will continue to develop their awareness of, and a sensitivity towards other peoples' feelings. They will develop skills to enable them to work co-operatively together in group activities and will continue to learn to carry out tasks and activities independently.

Communication and Language

The children will learn to answer 'how' and 'why' questions relating to their own experiences. They will also focus in more detail on developing their reading comprehension skills by listening to stories, predicting their events and responding to them with relevant comments. At this stage of the year, children will be supported in following more complex instructions involving several ideas or actions.

Physical Development

The children will start swimming this term. They will gain confidence in the water and learn to stay safe and have fun. They will be developing games skills using balls, ropes and small apparatus. The children will also continue to practice using scissors, pencils and other tools with increasing precision. They will be encouraged to think about the importance of keeping healthy and the things that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Literacy

This term, the children will have opportunities for creative and factual writing. They will begin to complete more frequent independent writing challenges, building on the early literacy skills they have already developed. In daily phonics sessions, they will continue to segment and blend sounds for reading and writing, with a greater focus on polysyllabic words. By the end of the year, children are expected to be able to read and write the Reception high frequency words so we will continue to build on our recognition of these words.

Mathematics

The children will be encouraged to solve doubling, halving and sharing problems and apply their knowledge of concepts in practical contexts. They will continue to work on ordering numbers to 20 and counting on and back. We will be introducing number patterns with a focus on counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. We will also focus on different methods for measuring and recognizing and naming 3D shapes.

Understanding the World

In our 'In the Garden' topic, we will be looking at the changes that occur during Springtime. The children will have opportunities to plant seeds and explore how plants grow. During our 'Minibeasts' topic, we will have the opportunity to observe the lifecycle of a butterfly as we grow and raise live caterpillars. Towards the end of the year we will be visiting Tilgate Park Nature Centre where the children will have the opportunity to interact with different animals.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be developing their creative skills using different materials and media. They will be exploring musical sounds and rhythms and learning new songs. They will also be encouraged to use imaginative ideas in role-play, both inside and outdoors.

Please remember on hot days to provide your child with a named sun hat and to put sun cream on your child in the morning. If you would like your child to apply sun cream during the day, you may provide sun cream with your child's name on (this will be kept in the classroom). You will need to show them how to do this themselves.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading and phonics skills. Please continue to support your child in learning to read the Reception High Frequency Words and help them to practise writing them independently.

Websites that you may find useful:

<http://www.Busythings.lgfl.org>.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<http://activityvillage.co.uk/farm-animals>

Key Diary Dates:

Wednesday 8th May - Blue Class assembly

Monday 6th May - Bank holiday

Friday 17th May - End of half term

Friday 21st June - Sports Day

Wednesday 26th June - Red Class assembly

Miss Perrin and Miss Nice