



Welcome to Reception Summer 2 Newsletter 2024

We hope you had an enjoyable half term holiday; how lovely was it to see the sun! We are pleased to have welcomed our wonderful children back into school for the last half term of the year before we break up for the summer holiday on Friday 21st July.



Our Showcase

We wanted to say HUGE congratulations to the children for a truly terrific showcase on Wednesday 24th May. It was a pleasure to welcome parents into school and share a small snapshot of our year so far. We hope you all enjoyed the performance; our singing and storytelling, as well as seeing your child have the confidence to get on stage in front of a packed-out hall. We are certainly so proud of every one of them!

Our Curriculum

Here you will be able to find out the details about what your child will be learning week by week. We have included the books and songs we will focus on. If you have any questions, please ask.

Week 1 Lifecycle of a Human

- ☺ Sequencing the stages humans grow through and looking at changes in each stage.
- ☺ Labelling body parts.
- ☺ Reading stories about growing up.
- ☺ Phonics - Long vowel phonemes, CVCCC CCVC words (c=consonant, v=vowel)
- ☺ Writing about our baby pictures.
- ☺ Understand the concept of time passing through own timeline.
- ☺ Song of the week - [When I was One](#)



Weeks 2 & 3 Transport

- ☺ Comparing transport from present day to back in time.
- ☺ Exploring how transport has developed.
- ☺ Local walk to look at transport in our local area.
- ☺ Learning how to keep a tally.
- ☺ Phonics - Long vowel phonemes, building CCVC CCCVC CCV CCVCC words.
- ☺ Reading non-fiction books about transport and stories about journeys.
- ☺ Writing about transport and adding labels to pictures.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Wheels on the Bus](#)



Week 4 Animals

- ☺ Visit to Rookery Open Farm Monday 26th June – more details to follow.
- ☺ Using the farm's website to research what is there to do.
- ☺ Understanding how to keep safe on the trip.
- ☺ Phonics - Phase 4 words ending _s /s/z/_es, longer words
- ☺ Reading What the Ladybird Heard by J. Donaldson and information texts about animals.
- ☺ Learning about animals and their habitats.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Down in the Jungle](#)



Week 5 Pirates

- ☺ Come dressed as a pirate – Wednesday 5th July.
- ☺ Making a treasure map for others to follow.
- ☺ Going on a treasure hunt.
- ☺ Phonics - Root words ending in: _ing, _ed /t/, _ed/id/ed/, _ed/d/
- ☺ Reading Ten Little Pirates by S. Rickerty, The Pirates Next Door by J. Duddle.
- ☺ Writing pirate descriptions about appearance and character.
- ☺ Choosing and using adjectives to add interest to sentences.
- ☺ Song of the week - [I'm a Pirate](#)



Weeks 6 & 7 Water

- ☺ Where does it come from?
- ☺ How is it stored?
- ☺ What can we use it for?
- ☺ Phonics - Root word ending in _er, _est, building longer words.
- ☺ Reading the Snail and the Whale by J. Donaldson and information books about oceans and water.
- ☺ Writing a postcard from the snail about his journey with the whale.
- ☺ Reinforcing capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.
- ☺ An afternoon of water activities – more information to follow.
- ☺ Song of the week - [The Big Ship Sails](#)



Numbers & Patterns

- ☺ Week 1 - Understanding of odd and even numbers and that not all numbers can be shared equally.
- ☺ Week 2 - Consolidation of subitising, counting, composition, sorting and matching, comparing and ordering, using numbers beyond 10 and investigating 100.
- ☺ Week 3 - Develop knowledge of common 2D shapes, noticing details such as edges and corners. Play with, explore, and rotate shapes to create patterns, other shapes and shapes made of shapes.
- ☺ Week 4 - Use spatial reasoning and the language associated with this to follow and make maps and give and follow directions.
- ☺ Week 5 - Explore and investigate relationships/patterns between numbers and shapes and develop spatial reasoning.
- ☺ Week 6 – Develop understanding of numbers to 10 and beyond.
- ☺ Week 7 - Develop understanding of numbers to 10 and beyond in relation to counting patterns.



Art – Sunflowers

- ☺ Studying the famous painting by Vincent van Gogh
- ☺ Developing observation, sketching and shading skills/techniques.
- ☺ Producing a showstopper based on the work of van Gogh.



PSHE through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

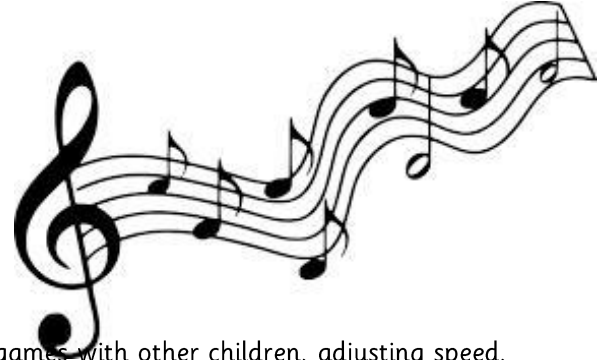
Our theme this half term across the school is Changing Me.

- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Understanding what being responsible means.
- ☺ Know how to look after things.
- ☺ To show respect for rules.
- ☺ Exploring what responsibility means.
- ☺ Identifying and labelling non intimate body parts.



Music

- ☺ Recall names of tuned and un-tuned percussion.
- ☺ Use musical vocabulary, e.g. pulse, rhythm, tempo.
- ☺ Join in and sing an accumulative song.
- ☺ Begin to be able to distinguish between pulse/rhythm.
- ☺ Sing with increasing confidence.
- ☺ Play and sing at the right time.



PE – Athletics

- ☺ Negotiate space successfully when playing racing and chasing games with other children, adjusting speed, or changing direction to avoid obstacles.
- ☺ Show increasing control over an object in pushing, patting, throwing, catching, or kicking it.
- ☺ Experiment with different ways of moving.
- ☺ Move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.



Lateness

We are finding that an increasing number of children are arriving late to school in the morning and for some children this seems to be often. Please remember that our school day starts at 8.40am, this is when the gate closes. Children are welcomed into the setting from 8.30am. Teaching and learning starts just before 8.45am and if your child is late, they will be missing out on vital development. Lateness causes disruption to our school office team too. We understand that at times this cannot be avoided but children should not be arriving late regularly. We thank you for your support with improving this.

Moving to Year One

It's hard to believe it is nearly time for our lovelies to move into Year One! Children will visit the Year 1 classrooms so they can see where everything is and understand the physical space. They will be read stories by the current Year 1 teachers as staffing for the Year 1 classes for September will be announced towards the end of the term. You will receive a letter about this along with your child's annual report on Friday 7th July. Children will then be invited to spend a morning with their new teacher before the summer holiday.



Reception Sports – Friday 5th July

Reception children are taking part in a non-competitive sports morning. Please can you ensure your child has a labelled water bottle, appropriate P.E. kit and a sun hat. Parents are welcomed into school for this event to cheer along.



Key Chains

Towards the end of this term, we will begin to collect in the tricky word key chains. Children will be able to

Return of Books

We will be collecting in our phonic reading books and our library books from Monday 8th July. So please

keep their cards, but we will need the rings for next year's children.



Summer Clothing

Hooray finally, we have been having some wonderful sunny weather, so we are encouraging all children to bring a hat to school and keep it in their tray when it is not needed. Sunglasses are permitted too.

note no further new books will be issued after this date. Please have a look around at home to see if you have any schoolbooks - library or phonics ones - which may have been misplaced, thank you.

Sun Cream

Shops sell sun creams that last up to 6 hours. It would be easier for your child if they had this type of cream applied before school as the adults cannot help them apply it during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Drop in for Vaccinations

Our health partners have organised drop-in clinics for young children who aren't up to date with their vaccinations. Uptake levels for all childhood vaccinations – such as whooping cough, measles, and polio - have been falling over the past decade. Vaccinating children helps to create wider immunity which can protect people with serious health conditions.

There's no need to book a session, parents can just drop in:

Wednesdays: The Rowans Family Centre, Moorfoot, Milton Keynes, MK11 2BD

12 June, 10 July (1pm to 4pm)

Thursdays: Daisy Chain (The Lounge), Melrose Avenue, West Bletchley, MK3 6PS

16 May, 13 June, 11 July (9am to 12:30pm), 15 August (9am to 3:30 pm).



Spare Clothes

Our stash of spare clothing has dwindled to nothing this term. If your child has borrowed some of our spares, please could we ask that you return them once they have been washed. We are particularly short of pants, trousers and footwear for boys. In addition, if you have any spares at home, you would be happy to donate, we could make good use of them – thank you ♥.

Our Book Reviews this half term

Miss Leaney recommends – The Littlest Yak



Gertie is the littlest yak in her whole herd, and she's feeling stuck in her smallness - she wants to grow UP and have bigness and tallness! But when it turns out that there are some things that only Gertie can do, might she come to see that she's perfect, just the way she is? Perfect for fans of Rachel Bright and Julia Donaldson, The Littlest Yak is a wonderfully beautiful, rhyming story that encourages children to celebrate their own unique talents and love themselves no matter what. This adorable, heartwarming tale is sure to be favourite at home as well as the classroom.



Benham-Smith recommends -The Tiger who Came to Tea by J. Kerr

I love tigers, they are my favourite animal, and this is my all-time favourite children's story, as it allows your imagination to run wild. A little girl named Sophie is having tea with her mother in their kitchen, when she hears the doorbell ring. Soon, Sophie and her mother are joined for tea by a tiger who eats all of the food on the table and drinks all the tea, before consuming all of the food and drink in the house, and even drinking the taps dry. After the tiger leaves, Sophie's mother wonders what she should cook for tea? What if the tiger returns?

Mrs Woods recommends – Zim Zam Zoom! By James Carter



I love Poems and this is a perfect age related book to explore them. Want to travel in a rocket? Search Zim Zam Zoom - for fun and adventures galore! Colours, animals, space, music, fairytale fireworks...! Here is a collection of poems especially written for performance. With delightful illustrations by a talented new illustrator, this is a brilliant introduction to poetry for young children.

As the year draws to a close, we will make your child's entire Tapestry Learning Journey available to you, so you may download it as a file and all the associated media, as a keepsake, to remember your child's first year in school. We will send you information nearer the time about how to do this. Sadly, our license agreement does not extend to parents being able to keep the live feed through Tapestry, we will need to use the spaces for next year's cohort.

Thank You

And finally... we would like to say a very big thank you for your tremendous support this year. We have been so pleased to welcome you into school for several events this year. We wish all the children success as they continue their learning journey into Year One.



Have a great summer holiday!

Routines

- ☺ Each class will visit the library for a regular session every week. Your child will be able to borrow a book, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it.
- ☺ Library days: Beetles –Mondays, Honeybees – Mondays and Fireflies – Tuesdays.
- ☺ Music in the music room with Mrs. Horwood on Wednesday mornings.
- ☺ PE Sessions with Mr Elkington and Mr Smyth on Thursday and Friday mornings – children come to school dressed in PE kit.
- ☺ All PPA (teacher time for planning, preparation and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Miss Leaney will take PPA on Thursday, Mrs. Woods will take PPA on Wednesday and alternating Monday afternoons and Miss Giles on Tuesday afternoons.

Staffing

- ☺ Beetles: Mrs Woods (Reception Lead) & Miss Tyrrell (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Fireflies: Miss Giles (class teacher) & Mrs Bond (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Honeybees: Miss Leaney (class teacher) & Mrs Wright (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Our HLTA Miss Smith will teach across all 3 classes.
- ☺ General teaching assistants Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Parry & Mrs Davis.