



Spring Term Newsletter

Firstly, thank you so much for all your cards, gifts and kind words. They are really very much appreciated. We hope you had a great, if quiet, Christmas and enjoyed spending time with your immediate family.

Learning Focus

Sadly, we are in an undesirable position of providing home learning to you all via Seesaw. However, we have found it to be very user friendly and popular with all classes. We are really trying to make activities as varied and accessible as we possibly can, but know it has its limitations and can be very stressful to complete daily, so we recommend doing it in short bursts, breaking up longer activities into chunks your child can manage and leaving whatever you cannot do.

As a priority, we would suggest regularly tuning in to the teacher starting the day, the phonics and reading or listening to as many stories as you can.

We will be posting every morning to allow you to take part in the learning activities at times that best suit you throughout the day. We will sometimes comment and sometimes just 'like' your posts. We will be working a full day but plan not to respond after 4pm in most instances.

We will start by planning activities that think about New Year traditions and resolutions. Learning will then progress to think about different types of celebration. It is very exciting that

our class pets will all be 12 in January. Of course they will have a party which will require lots of purposeful writing. All too soon, it will be Lunar New Year, a perfect opportunity for measuring, ordering and lots of number work. Other things such as National Storytelling Week and the Big Garden Bird Watch will provide further opportunities to extend children's positive experiences.

Reading

Please look out for an email that requires a response to indicate if you would be interested in picking up some reading books from school on a fortnightly/3 weekly basis.

Many children have made full use of Bug Club last term. It is regularly reviewed and new books added when you have a few left unread in each section. Sadly, once the books have been read, there are no more to give at appropriate levels so we would suggest going back over previously read texts and/or trying 'Oxford Owls'- a free eBook library or 'Teach your Monster to Read' by Usborne.

Reading Days

Reading days may change when the children return to school so that teachers get to share their time equally with all children. Please keep a look out for a new day being written on/in your child's yellow book.

Phonics

Lockdown has rather disrupted the plan to separate for phonics groups but when the children return, we will be putting them into at least 3 groups that are not their usual

class groups. They may do phonics in a different classroom. Sometimes this can cause a bit of anxiety initially, but very quickly, they love the new opportunities this brings. The reason we spend a lot of time planning and thinking about this, is to best meet the needs and different learning styles of all children. We will not be able to change children into different groups unless, as term progresses, we feel it would benefit an individual.

Useful information

At the moment two of our favourite sites are helping out during lockdown:

LGFL Busy Things is offering 1 month's subscription for £1
<https://www.busythings.co.uk/families>

Phonicsplay is offering free access during school closures
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

username: jan21

password: home

We wish you a very happy, healthy start to 2021.

Be kind to yourselves

The Reception Team