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Dear Year R Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term. We hope you all managed to find some time to relax and enjoy some of the sunshine that came our way, towards the end of the week.

In our Spring 1 letter, we outlined what we were covering over the whole of the term but here is reminder of what we are covering this half term.

Phonics

We are continuing with phase 3 from letters and sounds and will be re-capping all **digraphs** and **trigraphs** taught so far. A digraph is the technical term for when two letters are combined but only make one sound and a trigraph is the technical term for when three letters are combined but only make one sound. We will introduce some new digraphs and trigraphs which will be on the weekly letters. We will be looking at polysyllabic words which means words with more than one syllable e.g. words such a sunset, laptop, farmyard. We teach children to break these words into chunks to help them read them more easily. We will continue to teach to recognise tricky words (words that cannot be blended). These will be written on the weekly letters.

Reading

We will continue to share high quality texts with the children across the week, in whole class and small group reading sessions.

A big part of these reading sessions is about ensuring the children have understood what they have read. We do this by asking questions about the story of making links to our P4C sessions.

We will have a variety of books linked to some of the themes we will be covering and will post some links to the books we have read in school.

We will also have a focus on storytelling, learning how to create our own stories successfully.

Writing

We will continue to support children in a multi-sensory way to form their letters correctly. We will continue to work on 'family letters' so that children understand that some letters are formed in similar ways.

As always, we will also be finding lots of opportunities to write for a purpose and encourage you to do the same at home. Don't be surprised if your child gets a letter from school – it would be great if you could help your child to write back. To support in writing at home, we will send home the sound mats that we use in school.



Mathematics

We will continue to have daily mental maths sessions which will support children to count forwards and backwards as well as count on.

We will look the composition of numbers where we look at parts and wholes e.g. that 5 is the whole and the parts could be 3 and 2. This will link to previous learning on parts and wholes and we will have lots of experiences where we partition numbers using a variety of resources.

We will also explore pairs and doubles, using dice and dice patterns. We will make lots of comparisons, using language such as less, fewer, more than and equal to.

Please help your child at home in their maths by playing maths games such as game with dice, pairs with number cards or outside games such as hopscotch. Use every day experiences to spot doubles or talk about pairs e.g. a pair of socks.

Other things that are happening in Year R...

Understanding our feelings and emotions

Last half term we introduced a feelings chart. This is where children can use a peg to show how they are feeling at that point in time. It's been a great way for children to explain how they feel and why and will progress over time. For example, we also talk about levels of emotion and remind the children that all feelings are ok but not all behaviours are ok.

Outside Learning Area

We have finally had our three quotes for our outdoor space which has taken a little longer than planned. However, we are excited to announce that we will have some new equipment which will support children's gross motor skills. We are also excited that we have found a company called 'Men's Shed' who are going to build us a stage area, a new lid for our sand tray and some new digging areas. Men's Shed provide community spaces for men to connect, converse and create as a way of supporting their health and wellbeing. They have been used by other local schools, but we have only just discovered them! We are also excited to have employed two new members to the year R team. Their role is to specifically develop the outdoor space so that it flows with the children's interests but also makes close links to what we are teaching. We welcome Miss Brown and Mrs Fraser who we know will be a great asset and will really help our outdoor space evolve.

Seesaw

Don't forget to add some of the wonderful things you do with your child at home. It really does help us to build a picture of your child which supports us in our assessments and knowledge of the children. Any observations you add from home can only be viewed by the teachers in school. If you haven't done so already, we do urge you to get the family App of Seesaw as well as it means we can send announcements just in one place and means we have a line of communication with all parents.

Healthy snacks

You are more than welcome to provide an additional snack for your child, but we ask that you follow our school's healthy eating policy. Fruit, crackers, cheese, unsalted popcorn and bread sticks are all



examples of acceptable snacks. No crisps or chocolate-based products please. The NHS programme 'change 4 life' has some great advice and top tips for snacks and lunch box ideas.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

As always, we hope you find this information useful and we will continue to keep you updated through Seesaw, our weekly emails and by text.

Let's see what exciting things will happen this half term!

Early Years Team

