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Dear Year R Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and managed to enjoy some family time. We wanted to give you an overview of what to expect over the next half term. Hopefully, the children have recuperated and are ready for the start of the summer term. Let us also keep our fingers crossed for some warmer weather.

Please find an outline of what we will be covering this first half of the summer term.

### Phonics and Reading

We will be re-capping the **digraphs** and **trigraphs** from phase 3. Just to remind you, 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 continue to support children to recognise these sounds so that they can **blend** for reading. In spelling and writing, children are taught to **segment**. This just means, children are taught to listen to the sounds in words and try to break them down. We will also move onto phase 4 of phonics, after another assessment period. Phase 4 is all about re-capping what we know to help us read words with adjacent consonants. This means words such as **tent**, **hand**, **chomp**. There will also be some new tricky words to read.

We will continue to share books with the children across the week, in whole class and small group reading sessions. This will include looking at non-fiction texts and discussing how these work.

This half term we are also going to do lots of work around storytelling and we will be developing this even further though the use of story props and story stones.

Our weekly emails will update you with the sounds and words we are covering. Please continue to practise reading at home with your child as it really does make a difference. A big part of reading is also ensuring your child has understood what they have read, so don't forget to ask your child some questions about the story.

### Writing

We have been supporting the children to develop their letter formation through daily practice and shall be continuing to do this, ensuring children have opportunity to do this on paper in order that they develop their hand strength and learn about the pressure of the pencil on the paper.

As always, we will also be finding lots of opportunities to write for a purpose and encourage you to do the same at home. Now that children are more familiar with letter shapes and sounds, we place even more emphasis on getting the children to write simple sentences.

We will also be supporting children to write the tricky words they have learnt to read e.g. I, go, into, was, the, my etc...

Please do also support your child to write their name at home, ensuring the first letter is a capital and the remaining letters are lowercase.



## Mathematics

We will continue to have daily mental maths sessions, which will support children to extend their number skills such as halving, doubling, counting on and counting back. We will continue to work on subsidising where children are taught to recognise a number without counting. We will use the part/whole model to look at addition, understanding that whole numbers are made up of parts. Children will be taught to use a 10 frame to support their understanding of addition. We will also make lots of comparisons of objects, estimating how many there are.

We will also be ensuring children are confident to recognise and order numbers to 10 or 20, depending on their ability.

In shape, space and measure we will look at pattern within the environment, creating different patterns. We will look at capacity, looking at how much something holds.

### **Other things that are happening in Year R...**

#### **Outside Learning Area**

We are constantly trying to develop our outside area and I'm sure you have noticed some of the new resources and the new wood chip, which has really refreshed the area already. A big thank you to Mr Marshall who has made some new benches which we hope will last for years to come! As we roll into summer, look out for how the space will evolve. Miss Brown and Mrs Fraser are developing their roles so that they can offer new and exciting learning opportunities based on the children's interests or linked to our lessons.

#### **Seesaw**

Please keep adding the wonderful things you do with your child at home or when you are out and about. 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. Please do add the Family App if you have not done so already - we don't want you to miss out on any messages we put on here.

#### **Dress for the British weather!**

We know that the British weather is so changeable but where possible, please ensure your child is prepared, as we are outside in all weathers. There is very little shade in our outdoor learning area and whilst we do create shelters, we still advise that on sunny days, children come to school with sun hats and with sun cream already applied before they come to school (as we aren't allowed to apply it for them). Equally, we still advise coats and wet weather jackets just to be on the safe side! Please remember to label all items of clothing as so many things get lost and without names it makes it more difficult to find things.

#### **Year R School Trip**

This year we are excited to be visiting Itchen Valley Country Park for our Year R school trip, in June. We have not told the children yet, so please keep it a surprise. We are excited to be able to explore the park and take part in some activities that will really support the children to understand the natural world around them. There will be further information coming your way, which will outline everything you need to know for the trip.



## Dyslexia Screening Test

Sometimes children are not progressing in their letter recognition and reading as quickly as we would expect. Therefore, we offer a dyslexia screening test called DEST. Sometimes young children do things which can be confused with signs of dyslexia eg. get the letters 'p' and 'd' confused, put their clothes on back to front, or start reading from left to right. However, these things are also part of the normal developmental process. Therefore, DEST is only offered from the age of 5 to ensure that child development is taken into consideration.

Children who take part in DEST are asked to complete a variety of activities on a computer programme, so they will just see it as part of a normal school activity. Your child's class teacher will inform you by letter, if they feel your child should be screened. However, if you do not receive a letter by **Friday 16th May** and have any concerns about dyslexia then please let your class teacher know. It is important to highlight at this stage that DEST does not diagnose dyslexia, but it raises early warning signs that a child could be 'at risk'. The information taken from the test is passed onto Year 1 so that the right support can be put in place for children.

The DESTs will be completed in the second half of the summer term, and you will receive a letter about the results.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Early Years Team

