



Dear Year R Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your family had a wonderful Easter break. Can you believe that we are now in the final term? We have lots of exciting things planned so please find below, 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 they work.

This half term we are also going to do lots of work around storytelling and we will be developing this even further through 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 opportunities 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 subitising 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 time, exploring the concept of time in different ways. We will look at time of day/night, how long a minute is, the idea of a week and introducing a timeline. We will extend the timeline over the term, looking at it in different ways.

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

#### **Seesaw**

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.

#### **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 The New Forest Wildlife Park for our school trip, in May. 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 e.g. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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'.

In previous years, we completed the test at the end of year R but we found the results were not always accurate and we often had to repeat the test in Year 1. Therefore, the test will be only be administered in year R if your child is born in the months of September, October, November and December. If your child is born after December (according to the academic year) and we feel that they would benefit from doing the test, then we will pass their name up to Year One and they will speak to you about administering the test.

### **End of year reports**

You will receive an end of year report for your child, in the second half of the summer term. This is written by the class teachers and will inform you of the progress your child has made in Year R. You will also be offered another parent's evening to discuss the report, should you wish to.

You will also receive further information about the transition up to year 1, later on this term.

More detailed information about what your child is learning each week, is sent in the weekly email. However, please do come and ask about anything you are unsure of. It's going to be another busy half term and as always, we thank you for your continued support.

Early Years Team