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Dear Year R Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the Spring term already, With the children returning, happy to see their friends and ready and eager to learn.

We have lots planned for this half term, which we would like to share with you. Please be aware that children learn at different rates so the information we give you is just a guide. Some children may move beyond what we have listed below whereas others may require some additional support.

### Phonics

This half term we have begun Phase 3 of the Little Wandle Programme.

In this phase we learn the following digraphs (two letters that make one sound) – ai, ee, oa, oo, **oo**, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, er and the trigraphs (three letters that make one sound)- igh, ear, and air. There is information on Seesaw to let you know when we are teaching each digraph and trigraph.

We will be recapping all tricky words learnt in the Autumn Term, you have now had all of these sent home in reading packs. Please can you work on these at home with your children as tricky words really help with fluency when reading.

The tricky words we will be teaching the children this half term are - was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure.

We teach the children to identify the digraphs and words in simple sentences.

Also, in our Phonic sessions, the children have started to learn how to segment words to have a go at spelling. They each have a whiteboard and will have a go at spelling out and writing a word.

### Reading

We will continue to share a variety of books with the children across the week, in whole class and small group reading sessions as well as during informal book sharing sessions.

During taught sessions we will look at comprehension skills, where we ask children to explain what might have happened in a story or why a character might be feeling the way they do. We expect them to have a go at giving us a reason for their answer so we use 'because...' a lot.

Please continue to support reading at home. Remember the reading books we send home have already been read three times so your child should be able to read them well it's important that reading at home should be an enjoyable and successful experience.

It's so important that children understand what they are reading so don't forget to talk about what is happening in the story. There are questions in the back of the Little Wandle books if



### Writing

We will continue to support children in a multi-sensory way to form their letters correctly. Children who need to develop their correct pencil grip will be supported to develop their hand strength with fine motor activities and will participate in our 'Clever Hands and Clever Body' Time.

We will also be finding many opportunities to write for a purpose e.g. shopping lists, writing about experiences from home, writing about their play experiences and writing cards etc... We encourage you to do the same at home and add any examples to Seesaw.

We do talk to the children about the use of capital letters and ask that you support us at home by reminding children, when writing their name, to only use a capital letter at the beginning.

When learning to write, we also support the children to write the sounds and the tricky words that they have been learning in phonics. We have introduced our sound mats, an example of which we will make available at the phonics workshop on the 26th January and will send home for those unable to make it.

Drawing Club continues to drive our drawing and mark making adult led experiences.

### Mathematics

We will continue to have daily maths sessions, which will support children to practise and extend their number skills.

In 'number' focus time we explore

- Subitising (being able to recognise an amount without counting)
- Counting, ordering, cardinality (understanding the 4ness of 4)
- Composition (making numbers, number bonds)
- Comparison (using language such as greater than, fewer than, equal too)

In our Wednesday maths session we focus on Shape Space and Measure concepts and have kicked off the half term thinking about mass and using balance scales to compare objects.

Much of the maths that we teach also comes in the everyday experiences that we offer children e.g. using positional language in P.E, talking about the language related to time in our everyday routines, measuring time using sand timers in play situations to name but a few things.

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

We will be kick starting the Spring term learning about our 5 C needs; comfort, count, capable, connect, control. First using the stimulus of the Lion King, we will explore naming, exploring and identifying the 5 C needs for ourselves. We will then use target texts to unpick each 5 C Need throughout the half term. After Half term we will be learning about our first Executive Functioning Skill, Energy and Emotion.

### No Outsiders

At our school, we use the *No Outsiders* approach to help children learn about kindness, respect, and the wonderful diversity of the world around them. In **Year R**, this means exploring stories and activities that celebrate different families, cultures, abilities, and ways of life.



The aim is simple: **every child feels safe, valued, and included**, and learns from an early age that everyone is welcome—there are *no outsiders* here. Through age-appropriate picture books and gentle discussions, children develop confidence, empathy, and positive relationships with others.

We want to work in partnership with parents to support these important early lessons about friendship, acceptance, and belonging. If you have any questions, we're always happy to talk them through with you.

### Seesaw

The main way we are currently using Seesaw is to share with you some of the things that we get up to in school. We hope you enjoy seeing some of the things we get up to. We know we have mentioned this before, but please be aware that our priority is to interact with the children so whilst we try to capture as much as we can, it is not possible to capture everything.

The children will also be encouraged to access Seesaw themselves, where they can use it to share some of their 'wow' moments with you. We will be training the children to do this over this term.

Your role in Seesaw ....It really helps us to find out more about your children when you share things from home. Please do upload photos and/or comments about any significant moments at home or whilst you are out and about. It does not have to be school related; it might be that your child has eaten broccoli for the first time!

We hope the above information is useful and gives you an overview of the next half term. Please let us know about any other information we can provide for you.

Early Years Team



Healthy Schools

