...where we are all inspired to learn

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Wednesday 10th May 2017

Reception Newsletter Summer Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term: The final term. It's hard to imagine that just 8 months ago the children were walking through the door for the very first time! They have all grown, physically as well as in personality, and we are all very much looking forward to sharing these final weeks with them. This term there will be a focus on preparing children for the year 1 curriculum. This will mean more whole class teaching and encouraging children to be more independent. We will also be moving on with our phonics - the children have shown us throughout the year that they can quickly recognise sounds and we thank you for all the effort you have put in at home! Another area that we will be developing as the term progresses is simple addition and subtraction, as well as the different vocabulary involved. There will also be the opportunity for children to use their knowledge to do some problem solving. Finally, we'll be making sure that we enjoy ourselves! Thank you again for all your help and support this year and please feel free to come to us with any problems you have!

Our topics for this term are:

The Seaside & Turtles
We have got a special trip lined up with Pre-school for this topic. We'll be looking at the seaside in general as well as a taking a closer look under the sea and the world that lives there! As a further element to this topic, we begin a scheme of work that children will add to every other year: Sea turtles. In reception we begin this by exploring the question 'Why do Loggerhead Sea Turtles love dark sandy beaches?'

Mr. Men
For this topic we will look at the very famous series of books first created by Roger Hargreaves. Children will make Mr. Messy characters and write some character profiles. We'll be making some fridge magnets and finishing off the topic with a class celebration.

Around the World
For this topic, we'll be taking a round the world trip, stopping off at different countries along the way to explore the culture and, of course, the food! This is a great opportunity to explore the diversity of children within our class this year and if parents/grandparents have anything to offer, or even come in and talk about, please let us know!

There will also be two special themed weeks during the summer term. One of these will be a Health and safety week and the other will be a centred around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). More information to follow.

Dates for diary:

- Weymouth beach – Wednesday 10th May – 9.30-12.00pm
- Life Education van – Thursday 11th May
- Half-term – 29th May – 2nd June
- Class photos – Tuesday 13th June
- Reception assembly – Friday 23rd June – 9.20am
- Honeybrook Farm – 11th July – all day
- Sports morning – Monday 3rd July – 9.30-10.30am
- Bump up afternoon – Thursday 6th July – 1.30-3.30pm
- Open afternoon – Monday 17th July - 3.00pm onwards

Wow! Moments

Firstly, thank you for the massive support so far in bringing in Wow! Moments. We strive to read them all out to the children before sending them for Mrs. Mewett to see. Please continue to bring in Wow! Moments as these do contribute towards how we assess children. As we are near the end of the term you may be wondering what to write on a Wow! Moment. Please feel free to add any discussions you have with children where they may articulate themselves very well or justify an opinion. As we are approaching summer we will also be seeing a lot of change in the environment so if children make observations about something they see, these are very useful! If you need any ideas please don't hesitate to come and ask us.

Snacks and Water

To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy life style, a healthy snack in school each day in addition to a bottle of water is recommended! Especially as the weather will (hopefully) be getting warmer. We are encouraging the children to drink and eat smart by keeping hydrated through the day and be conscious of what they are eating. The school also provides free fruit for children to have as a snack at break time. Milk will continue to be available at break times on the playground – or in the classroom when it is wet play. If you would like us to make sure your child has their milk, please come and see us. Snacks, such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged.

Reading & Writing

We will be continuing to have two weekly group reading sessions. We will be encouraging children to use the skills we have learnt in phonics to help them decode the text we are reading. Please continue to change individual reading books as often as you feel necessary. As children become more comfortable with reading we will be encouraging a higher level of writing. To aid with this, we will be having some specific handwriting sessions to tackle the more complex letter formations. As always, we will be basing our writing in a real-life context with opportunities for children to discuss what it is they are going to write. If you have anything you wish to discuss with us regarding reading or writing, please come and ask us.

Blog/website

We try our best to keep our class blog up-to-date and hope you find it a useful source of information. This information can be accessed at home, work or on your mobile using our class RSS feed: http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk/The_Prince_of_Wales_First_School/Reception_RSS_Feed.html

Or by clicking on the 'reception page' on the school website (through the blogs link). We hope you will find this method of communication useful. We welcome your thoughts on what else could be included on our class blog.

PE Kits

At the end of this term there will be a sports morning (see dates) for Reception children. To prepare for this we will working with the children on different skills. Most of the activities we will be doing will be taking place outside, so could we please ask that all children have a full PE kit with plimsolls or trainers. Some children are growing quickly and may have outgrown their plimsolls. We will let you know if this is the case.

Relationships & Changing Me

For our class Jigsaw topics this term we will be covering 'Relationships' and 'Changing Me'. The Relationships puzzle will cover the relationships children have with those most familiar to them i.e parents, grandparents. It will then move on to making friends and how to maintain friendships when issues arise. This puzzle will then end with an introduction to bullying, what it looks like and what to do about it. The second puzzle we will be covering (Changing Me) will give children an opportunity to look at their own bodies and what we need to do to protect them. We will also discover how much has already changed about their bodies and personalities since they were babies and what else will change as they continue to grow. The puzzle will also give children the opportunity to talk about their impending move to year 1 and who they can talk to about any fears they have. There will be an information session regarding the 'Changing Me' puzzle.

Growth Mindset

We will be continuing to develop our growth mindset sessions. These are centred on the belief that we are all capable of learning anything new, even though this could be difficult and challenging at first. We have already been using Class Dojo to help to this end and have watched several series of videos covering perseverance, what a growth mindset is and 'The Dip'! Through the summer term we will be carrying out activities and discussions that help to develop our understanding of Growth Mindset. This then ties in to the 4 learning powers that we have across the school. These are Resilience, Reciprocity, Reflectiveness and Resourcefulness. Each learning power has certain skills within it that we discuss and learn about with children.

Yours sincerely.

Mr Gibson
Class Teacher