



RECEPTION

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

“Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education”- Martin Luther King.

Welcome back! We hope you've had a lovely two week break and spent time together with family and friends! We are looking forwards to welcoming you back to school for a great spring term.

TOPIC HALF TERM ONE



This half term our topic is Animals

The children will be exploring this topic through:

- ✓ Reading non-fiction texts.
- ✓ Speaking and listening.
- ✓ Learning key features of animals and habitats.
- ✓ Exploring how to care for animals.



Some of the things we will be doing include:

- ✓ Teachers' pets coming to visit.
- ✓ Trip to Stonebridge City Farm.
- ✓ Watching live streams of local wildlife.
- ✓ Learn about different animal habitats.

TOPIC HALF TERM TWO

This half term our topic is Our Diverse World

The children will be exploring this topic through:

- ✓ Learning about people and traditions from around the world.
- ✓ Exploring art and music.
- ✓ Speaking and listening



Some of the things we will be doing include:

- ✓ Discovering cultures and traditions from around the world.
- ✓ Parent talks from different family heritages.
- ✓ Cultural show and tells.



PERSONAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



This term, the children will focus on keeping safe, both indoors and outdoors. They will learn how to keep their bodies safe and healthy by finding out how to look after them by what they put inside their bodies. They will discuss people who can help to keep us safe, such as teachers and parents/carers and also spend time learning the importance of staying safe online. The children will also focus on caring for others and the environment and the impact that can have on others.

COMMUNICATION LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the spring term, the children will focus on listening to information on their new topics and retaining the facts taught to build upon their prior knowledge. They will use new vocabulary to give explanations about how to care for animals and to describe the world around them, which will extend their responses and support their communication skills with others. They will also have the opportunity to listen to and respond to questions.



MATHEMATIC DEVELOPMENT



At our school we follow White Rose Maths. This term the children will be exploring and mastering the numbers up to 10, including finding more and less, doubling numbers, odd and even numbers and number bonds to 10. They will learn about 3D shapes, including the shape names, features and exploring where to find them in the environment. The children will also learn about capacity, length, height and time and use key vocabulary to describe and compare.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Did you know....a good night's sleep helps children's mental, physical, social and emotional development?



Torvill and Dean have PE on a **Tuesday** with Mr Kiggins.

On PE days, please ensure your child wears the PE kit uniform of black shorts/joggers/leggings, a school polo shirt and trainers (preferably black). Please remove any earrings.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

This term as part of our whole school diversity calendar, we will be learning about:

- **World Braille day**
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
- **Children's mental health week**
- **Lunar New Year**
- **Start of Ramadan – Islam**
- **Start of lent – Christian festival**
- **St David's Day (Wales)**
- **Holi – Hindu and Sikh festival**
- **International Women's day**
- **St Patrick's Day (Ireland)**
- **Eid-al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) – Islam holiday**
- **World Autism Day**
- **Easter Sunday – Christian festival**



ONLINE ACTIVITIES & SAFETY TIPS



Your child has a log in and password for Numbots inside their reading diary. This educational app is perfect to support your child with their early maths skills in a safe and fun way.

It is important that the games and videos your child is accessing are ideally educational, but most importantly, age appropriate. If you are unsure or would like support with this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES



Please do not hesitate to come and ask a member of staff in the EYC if you have any questions.

Mrs Smith is the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Phase Leader and is in school Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She is available to answer any questions. If you would rather speak to her in private, she is more than happy to make an appointment with you.

A CELEBRATION OF OUR LEARNING LAST TERM



During the autumn term, the children met a range of people who help us, including a police officer, firefighters, a nurse and our school caretaker Mr Shipley. They went on a walk around the school to learn about the school environment. We enjoyed two stay and play sessions with our parents and carers. We explored the polytunnel with Tracey and built a collaborative leaf picture inside a willow star shape. The children have also enjoyed creative activities with Ms Winter, the resident artist who works with the children every Thursday. As part of our celebration's topic, we had a class wedding. The children dressed up to play the roles of bride, groom and wedding party and had a fun wedding reception after. We learnt about Diwali by making clay diva lamps, chapattis and trying traditional Indian food. The children worked really hard to perform their Christmas nativity, 'It's a Baby' for their grown-ups and had fun making lots of Christmas crafts!



GOOD NEWS

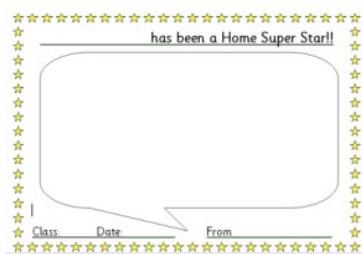
Calling all parents/carers, grandparents, aunties, uncles and big brothers and sisters – we need your help!!

We know how fantastic your children are at school and the achievements they make with us, but we want to know more about home!

We have our **Good News Board**, where we would like you to share good news from home about what your child has been doing. This can be anything new or exciting your child has done.

A member of staff will have Good News cards available each day and we would like you to put your child's name on the top, write what has made them a super star at home and say who the comment is from.

It can be from parents/carers, grandparents or any family members. Please give them to your child's class teacher and they will display them on the board.



HOME LEARNING



Puzzle Challenge:

The Torvill and Dean children will bring home a Puzzle Challenge every Thursday. A Puzzle Challenge is an activity to do at home that is maths related. We would like the children to complete them with you and return them to school the following week. When they return them to school, they will receive a star sticker in the back of their diary. Puzzle is the name of the squirrel that helps the children to get better at maths!

Reading Books:



Please encourage your child to read every night. Your child will now be coming home with a new practise reading book linked to their phonics phase every **Wednesday**. These will be collected in each **Tuesday**. Any reading being done at home still needs to be recorded in the reading diary. Diaries are checked daily and each book should be read 5 times a week.

It is extremely important that these books are returned ON TIME and in GOOD CONDITION as they are then used in school. Any books not returned will have a charge of £2.50 on the Arbor app.

Sharing reading books will be changed on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday**.

INFORMATION

Now that the weather is getting colder, please remember to send appropriate clothing for your child to wear- as we do a lot of learning in our outdoors environment. Children should have a warm coat that can be fastened, ideally with a hood, and a hat, scarf and gloves on colder days. If you send your child to school in wellington boots, please send a pair of school shoes in a bag that they can swap into for inside learning times. We also recommend that if girls are wearing skirts or dresses that they have tights on to keep their legs warm. Please ensure all clothing items are labelled with your child's name.



DIARY DATES



HALF TERM ONE

- 05/01/2026 – Start of spring 1
- 02-06/02/2026 – Wellbeing Week
- 04/02/2026 – Stay and Play
- 06/02/2026 – NSPCC Number Day
- 10/02/2026 – Safer Internet Day
- 13/02/2026 – Last day of spring 1

HALF TERM TWO

- 23/02/2026 – Start of spring 2
- 05/03/2026 – World Book Day
- 05/03/2026 – Stay and Play
- 09-13/03/2026 – British Science Week
- 18/03/2026 – Parents/Carers Evening
- 23/03/2026 – Spring Disco (F1-Y2 4-5pm)
- 27/03/2026 – Last day of spring 2
- 13/04/2026 – First day of summer term