



Fireflies' Newsletter



Spring 1 Update

The Spring Term has got off to a flying start! The children have settled back into routines and are really engaging in our new topic - 'The Hungry Caterpillar.' Last week we created fruit kebabs from some of the fruits from the text and this acted as a create stimulus for our writing. Mrs Chaplin and Mrs Hicken were most impressed with the instructions the children wrote on how to make their yummy fruit kebabs.



Thank you to all those who participated in our home learning last half term. Our classroom is looking fantastic with lots of Gruffalo masks and woodland art work. We really do appreciate your support in this and it's a great way to get involved in your child's learning. We sent out a Home Learning task sheet a few weeks ago for this half term's project and invite your child to bring in their work on **Tuesday 11th February**. We look forward to seeing some wonderful creations linked to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' If you require another sheet please just ask.



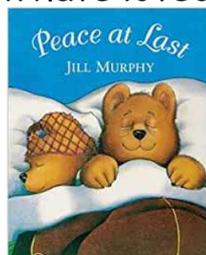
Last week, many children came dressed in red, white and blue to support Australia Day. The children learnt about what it is like to live in Australia and why it is in the news at the moment. Thank you for your generous donations.



A key theme throughout the Foundation Stage is kindness. Mr Crone and Mrs Taylor held an assembly about what it means to be kind to others and we have been following this up in our lessons. We have been working on saying kind words to others and keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. Ask your child about the things that they can do to show they are being kind - we were most impressed with their suggestions!



Our topic this half term has focussed on the Life Cycle of a Butterfly and Healthy Eating. We have explored colour mixing and created our own butterfly symmetrical pictures too. Finally we will move on to creating art in the style of the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo - he uses fruit and vegetables to create amazing art work! Our outdoor learning continues to be a big part of our day and we have made use of our new construction area - the children have loved role playing being builders!



Thinking ahead to next half term, we will be exploring the book 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy. Our topic will focus on different types of

homes and families as well as people that help us in the community. As part of Geography, we will explore the difference between living in a city and living in the countryside as well as different types of houses. Our Personal and Social Education units will focus on 'Stranger Danger' awareness as well as safety in the home. Any budding architects out there will love our Science and Design and Technology work - we will be planning our own building structures and deciding the best material to build a house out of. We are hoping to arrange visits from those that support us in our everyday lives. If you have a job as a nurse, care assistant, shop assistant or any other career that supports others in our community and would be willing to come and talk to the children about your role, please do get in touch with us.



The children are really coming along with their Phonics and beginning to apply their knowledge into their writing. We have just introduced a blending disco activity to help with our segmenting and blending of unfamiliar words. The children LOVE it- ask your child to show you their disco moves - it's great fun!! We will continue to apply Phonics in our daily writing sessions.



As many of you are aware, we hold a weekly 'Superstar' Assembly within the unit. This is an excellent chance for us to praise the amazing work that children are completing in Foundation. This can range from being helpful to trying really hard on individual targets. Ask your child all about it!



A polite reminder that the class doors open at 8:45am each morning and a prompt start is vital to support with learning. The class doors will open at 3:15pm at the end of the day. Please advise us if someone different is collecting your child and call the school office to confirm. Your child's safety is very important to us.

Please can you make sure that **your child's name is written in all items of clothing.** This includes coats, shoes, jumpers and cardigans. Also please label book bags and water bottles. **As we are a 'Healthy School' water bottles should contain only water rather than juice.** We like to do as much learning as possible outdoors as the children really enjoy the opportunities available. Please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear and clothing so that they can keep as warm as possible. Also try to encourage your child to zip or button up their own coats at home as this is an important way of them learning to be independent.



PE will continue to take place on a Thursday morning. Now that the children have settled into the routines of being at school, we would like them to bring a PE kit in as getting changed is an important skill they will need to learn by the time they leave the foundation unit. They will need a white t-shirt and black or navy shorts as well as plimsolls. Please ensure that these items are all labelled and placed in

a bag with your child's name on. This kit can stay on their peg and we will return it at the end of the half term to be washed. Thank you.



As many of you may have noticed, Mrs Cooper is expecting a baby. She has now gone on Maternity leave and Mrs Moreton will be supporting Mrs Chaplin in class at the end of the week. We wish Mrs Cooper all the best and will keep you updated on when the baby arrives!

We are an approachable team and if you have any concerns do come and have a chat with us. We look forward to working with you to make your child's time at school fun and enjoyable and supporting them on their learning journey.

Mrs Chaplin, Mrs Hicken, Mrs Steele and Mrs Moreton