



Uffculme Primary School

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Spring 1st 2024 CLASS NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Reception,

We hope you all had a really lovely Christmas break and have settled back into the school term. We have written this newsletter to give you further information on the expectations and routines in Reception this half term. Our current topic for this half term is **'The Artic and cold places'** and we are looking forward to becoming 'mini explorers' and finding out about and sharing lots of information.

Area of learning	What we hope to find out and learn
Communication and Language	Develop our understanding and knowledge by listening to and talking about stories and non-fiction books that we have read and in our reading practice sessions. Focusing on developing our conversation skills with a more accurate use of tense and describing events and explaining in more detail.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Practising turn-taking and playing co-operatively. Thinking about what makes a good friend and forming positive relationships. Identifying feelings and talking about behaviour and showing sensitivity to how others might be feeling.
PE and Physical Development	In PE we will be doing gymnastics and dance . We will be developing our gross motor skills including balance and coordination, rolling with control and combining 2 movements together. Learning to climb, balance and jump using apparatus. We will also be gaining more of an awareness of the importance of physical activity and the effect it has on our body, health and wellbeing. Fine motor skill development will include using a secure tripod grip for writing and drawing and using scissors to cut zigzags and shapes.
Literacy – phonics (following Little Wandle Phonics)	Continuing to progress through our Little Wandle Phonics scheme and recognise Phase 2 graphemes including digraphs (sounds which are made up of 2 letters) and starting to learn some Phase 3 graphemes. To read captions and sentences containing the digraphs and tricky words that we have learnt. Please see the 'Phonics programme' below for more detail about the graphemes and tricky words that we will be learning.
Literacy – Key texts	Here comes Jack Frost by Kazuno Kohara Jack Frost is in the garden – poem by Brenda Williams Poles Apart by Jeanne Willis Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner Where Snowflakes Fall by Claire Freedman
Literacy - writing	Continue practising and using correct letter formation. Writing words and captions using finger spaces. Beginning to be aware of the size of our writing and have an awareness of capital letters.



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Mathematics (NCETM)	<p>Number - Subitising numbers 1-6 (subitising is the ability to see without counting e.g. recognising dice patterns, groups of objects). Comparing quantities and using the vocabulary 'equal' and 'unequal'. Recognising pairs of numbers that make 5 and exploring the composition (understanding that numbers are made up of other numbers) for 6 and 7.</p> <p>Shape - recognising 2D shapes and talking about similarities</p> <p>Measure - Using the language of measure to compare sizes of length, height, weight.</p> <p>Pattern – Continuing repeating patterns.</p>
Understanding the World	<p>Winter and identifying features and seasonal changes. Exploring ice and frost and investigating how ice is formed and melts.</p> <p>Exploring the Polar Regions and learning about communities that live in the Arctic. The environment in the Arctic and Antarctica and what animals live there.</p> <p>Learning about other countries e.g. China and recognising that some environments are very different to the one in which we live.</p>
RE	<p>Chinese New Year</p> <p>Learning about which places are special and why. Talk about places that are special to us and why. Know that there are different religions and the people who follow these religions have special places of worship.</p>
Computing	<p>Researching facts about animals that live in cold places.</p> <p>Using programmable toys (beebots) with a greater degree of planning and control.</p> <p>Learning about technology in school and at home and have an awareness of sensible amounts of screen time and how to use technology safely.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>Paint by mixing colours together and learn to use a paintbrush to create different brush strokes and add detail.</p> <p>With playdough and clay, learn skills for sculpting such as rolling, pinching, squeezing and pulling, to express our ideas and feelings.</p> <p>Playing with others, taking on a role and developing storylines in our play, drawing upon our own experiences and known stories.</p>
Music	<p>Songs about 'Family' – Listening and responding to different styles of music. Singing and learning to play instruments within a song</p>

Home Learning - Reading

All children will bring home 2 books every week:

Sharing Book

This is a book that your child will have chosen to share at home and enjoy building up a story with you. Your child will not be able to read this book on their own. We will change these books on a Monday so please make sure that it is in your child's bookbag every Monday.

Reading Practice Book

This is a book that has been matched to your child's current reading level and will only include letter sounds that they have learned in school. Children will start off their reading journey with a wordless book and progress to books with words when they are confidently blending sounds together to read words. Your child will read this book with an adult in school 3 times a week (Monday-Wednesday) and then bring this book home on a Wednesday. We will then collect this book in the following Wednesday. Your child also has their own reading record. We would like your child to read their book with you three times a week and then please record each read clearly in the reading record. This just needs to be the date, title of the book and a signature. Please also add a reading comment if this is appropriate. We will

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check the reading records every Wednesday and we will award your child with a Dojo if they have completed three home reads of the **reading practice book**.

Tricky Words

Please can you also help your child to practise recognising the 'tricky words' that we have learnt as there are quite a few and they are proving a bit of a challenge to remember so any practice that the children can do at home will be very beneficial to your child. The 'tricky words' are listed below and are also attached to the children's reading records.

Phonics programme

This programme shows the progression of GPC's (grapheme-phoneme-correspondence) and tricky words that we will teach over the first two terms in Reception. All of the graphemes taught are practised in words, sentences, and later on, in fully decodable reading books. Children review and revise GPC's and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.

Spring Term - Phase 2 and Phase 3 graphemes	Spring Term - Phase 2 and Phase 3 Tricky words
qu ch sh th ng nk ai ee igh oa oo oo ar or ur ow oi ear air er	her go no to into she push he of we me be was you they my by all are sure pure

Water bottles and snack

Please can you send a water bottle into school every day for your child. It is really important that they have access to water throughout the day and a bottle in the classroom ensures that water is readily available (no squash or juice please). Please label the bottle with your child's name. Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable every day for snack but if your child would like to bring in their own snack instead, they can bring in a piece of fruit or veg from home.

PE and Music

PE lessons will be taken by Mr Carpanini and will be on a Thursday and Friday. Children will need to have their PE kit in school on these days. A reminder that your child needs the correct PE uniform: black shorts, red polo-shirt with the school logo and daps or trainers. When the weather is colder, they may need black tracksuit bottoms. Please ensure that all PE kit is clearly labelled and carried in a named bag. For health and safety reasons, jewellery must be removed for P.E; this includes earrings.

Mrs Pethick will be teaching the children Music on Wednesday's.

Thank you for your continued help and support. We are really looking forward to another exciting half term of fun and learning.

With very best wishes,

Mrs R Sharpe
Reception Teacher

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Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 16 th January	Open classrooms
Monday 5 th February	Parent consultations
Thursday 8 th February	Parent consultations
Friday 9 th February	Trust-Wide Non-Uniform Day
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February	Half term break
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day (Non-uniform)
Friday 29 th March - Friday 12 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April	Children return for Summer Term

