Tuesday 1st November 2022

Dear Parent / Carer / Guardians,

Over the last half term, we really enjoyed meeting you all and getting to know your children. This half term our theme is ‘Terrific Tales!’ We have lots of exciting things planned for the next few weeks.

Please see the table below for further information for this half term:

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| ***Area of Learning*** | ***Focus*** |
| Personal, Social and Emotional Development | Children will be taking part in weekly circle times. They will have the opportunity to talk about themselves and their family. Children will be encouraged to take turns and listen to each other. We will also be talking about our wider school family. Children will also be learning more about how to look after their teeth. |
| Communication and Language | We will continue to focus on our circle time rules, encouraging the children to take turns to share their thoughts and ideas on a specific question/subject. During this time the children will pass a soft toy around the circle. They will know that when it is in their hands it is their turn to talk and at other times they will be expected to look and listen carefully to their friends as they speak. |
| Physical Development | We begin every morning with ‘Go Noodle’ to get active and every afternoon with ‘Dough Disco’ to work on our fine motor skills. This will help to prepare the children for writing and develop pencil grip and control. There will be daily opportunities (weather permitting) for children to play outside during this half term. Every Friday the children will complete their PE lesson with Mr Brigg, our PE coach. |
| Literacy | Children are really enjoying choosing a book from the school library to take home. This activity will continue every week on a Tuesday for RW and Wednesday for RS. This half term we will also be sending home a reading record book for you to add any comments and sign to let us know it has been read at home. Last half term we began to teach specific letter sounds ( s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d) and will continue to learn new sounds this half term. Please encourage your child to spot these sounds within their story books and talk about words they may know start with this sound. In class we are spending a lot of time learning to blend these sounds to help us read short words. This can be tricky for the children however once they begin to master this skill we will also introduce them to a phonics-based reading book. This will be their reading book which we will be encouraging them to read to you independently. More information to follow. Please ensure your child keeps their reading record book in their book bag as we will also sign and comment in this when they read to us in school. Please make the time to share a book with your child as often as possible, every day if you are able.  In writing children will be practising name writing daily and learning the correct formation for each letter. You can help at home by using the wipe clean handwriting board sent home and helping your child to form and size the letters correctly by starting at the dot. Your child’s name should start with a capital letter, but the rest of the letters should be lower case. |
| Mathematics | We have two maths inputs every day. Our ‘Mastering Number’ session focuses on securing firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children in a 10 minute lesson. After lunch we have a further maths input where we learn together, work practically and complete small group/individual work tasks within the provision over the week linked to the focus objectives. We are initially completing a week on pattern before moving on to our next topic.  Our topics for this half-term will be:  ***It’s Me 1 2 3! -*** Representing 1 2 3 / Comparing 1 2 3 / Composition of 1 2 3 / Circles and Triangles / Spatial Awareness  **Light and Dark** - Four / Five / One more and one less / Shapes with four sides /  Night and day  You can help at home by supporting your child in understanding the three rules of counting :   1. Count everything once. 2. Say the numbers in the right order. 3. The last number you say is how many in the set. |
| Understanding of the World | We will initially complete our work linked to the whole school Black History focus. We will then be looking at different ‘Festivals and Celebrations’, which happen at this time of year and learn about Bonfire Safety and Remembrance Day. We will continue to look at the changes in seasons and carry out a fieldwork study on our school grounds. In the build up to Christmas we will be finding out about the Christmas Story and practising our Nativity.  Our Religious Education focus question is: How are special times celebrated? |
| Expressive Art and Design | Children will have the chance to work creatively in our continuous provision on a daily basis. There will be weekly music session with Mrs Marsden. This half term children will be singing familiar songs and nursery rhymes and also learning new songs for our Christmas performance. They will be exploring sounds and will have the opportunity to use different musical instruments. |

Your child will need the following:

**Book Bags**- Please remember that your child needs to bring their book bag to school every day.

**Water bottles**- Please make sure that your child has a clearly named water bottle in school every day. Please don’t transport your water bottle in your book bag as the water can damage the reading books if they leak.

**PE kit:** Please ensure your child’s PE kit is in school every **Friday morning**. Indoor kit is navy blue shorts and white T-shirt. PE kits should be in a clearly named pump bag, these are available from the school office.

**Attendance and punctuality**

We would like to emphasise the importance of excellent attendance and hope that you and your child will make every effort to make sure that you are on time and ready for the school day. The school doors open for 08:45am and your child’s class teacher will meet them every morning in the Reception playground to bring them into school. Our school day finishes at 3.15pm and we will hand your children to you through our classroom doors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to any of us at the end of the school day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Wardell, Miss Stocks and the Reception Team