



Welcome to Reception Autumn 2 Newsletter 2023

We are pleased the children have settled so well and we had such a successful first half term. Thank you for all your support with settling the children into school, we hope you have had a relaxing break. We are all looking forward to this half term.



Well Done!

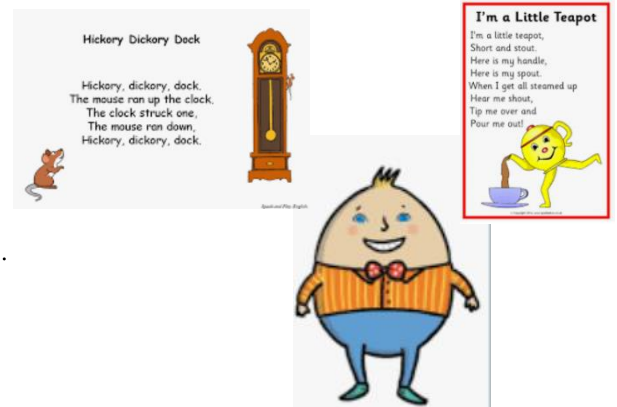
We wanted to say HUGE congratulations to the children for a truly brilliant first half term in school. We are so impressed by the way they have conducted themselves managing this transition into starting school for the very first time. Over the first half term we noticed children building their independent skills and developing their attention span to be able to focus on adult led activities. This week we have been wowed by how confidently the children have managed the change to the drop off routine in the morning. Thank you to parents for all your support with this.

Our Curriculum

Here you will be able to find out the details about what your child will be learning week by week. We have included the books and songs we will focus on. If you have any questions, please ask.

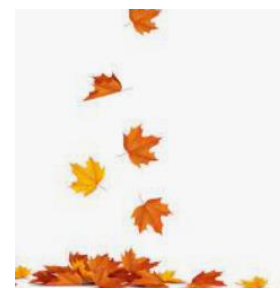
Week 1 Poetry

- ☺ Learning poems by heart to performing them to an audience.
- ☺ Adding actions to poems.
- ☺ Reading poems and sharing favourites.
- ☺ Phonics - /ff/ll/ss/j/ Tricky words - /put/pull/full/as/
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Songs of the week - [I'm a Little Teapot](#).
- ☺ [Hickory Dickory Dock](#)
- ☺ [Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall](#)



Week 2 Autumn

- ☺ Going on a local walk to notice changes in the local environment.
- ☺ Appropriate clothing for the season.
- ☺ Discovering autumnal colours.
- ☺ Phonics - /v/x/w/y/ Tricky words /and/has/his/her/
- ☺ Reading Pumpkin Soup, Tidy and The Enormous Turnip
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Song of the week - [I Hear Thunder](#)



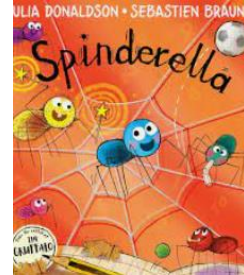
Week 3 Diwali

- ☺ Talking about experiences of Diwali and how to celebrate.
- ☺ Rangoli patterns.
- ☺ Develop understanding of other faiths.
- ☺ Phonics - /z/zz/qu/ch/ and adding /s/ for plurals Tricky words /go/no/to/into/
- ☺ Reading The Best Diwali Ever and the story of Rama and Sita.
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Song of the week - [I Can Sing a Rainbow](#)



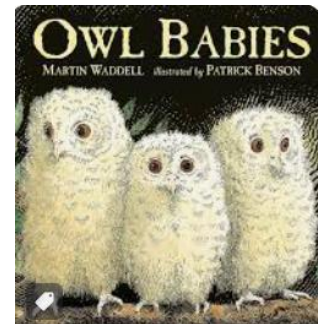
Week 4 Spiders

- ☺ Noticing the features of a spider and searching for webs.
- ☺ Going on a spider hunt – where are their habitats?
- ☺ Phonics - /sh/th/ng/nk/ Tricky words /she/push/he/of/
- ☺ Reading The Very Busy Spider, Spinderella, Aaargh Spider!
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Incy Wincy Spider](#)



Week 5 Safety

- ☺ Where do we feel safe?
- ☺ How can we keep ourselves safe? Who helps us stay safe?
- ☺ What does safe mean?
- ☺ Phonics – words with /s/ added at the end Tricky words /we/me/be/
- ☺ Reading Owl Babies, Monkey Puzzle
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Song of the week - [5 Currant Buns](#)



Week 6 Contrasting Locality

- ☺ Study of Dubai.
- ☺ Where is it in the world? What is it like?
- ☺ Comparing features between Dubai and where we live.
- ☺ Phonics – Review and Assessment
- ☺ Reading Desert Animals
- ☺ Speaking in whole sentences ensuring grammar is correct.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Row Row Your Boat](#)

Week 7 The Snowman

- ☺ What makes a good friend
- ☺ Understand how to be a good friend and to develop friendships.
- ☺ Role-play characters from The Snowman by Raymond Briggs.
- ☺ Phonics – /ai/ee/igh/oa/
- ☺ Reading The Snowman by Raymond Briggs
- ☺ Writing CVC words
- ☺ Song of the week – Christmas Songs



Week 8 Christmas

- ☺ Talking about experiences of Christmas and how to celebrate.
- ☺ Sharing home experiences.
- ☺ Develop understanding of other faiths.
- ☺ Phonics – /oo/oo/ar/or/ Tricky Words /was/you/they/
- ☺ Reading Stick Man and The Nativity story
- ☺ Writing CVC words by applying phoneme knowledge
- ☺ Song of the week – Christmas Songs



Numbers & Patterns

- ☺ Week 1 - Concept of zero, how this can be represented in practical activities and how it can be recorded.
- ☺ Week 2 - Good working knowledge of 3 and its value. To recap on numbers 1,2,3 and understand the different ways to represent these.
- ☺ Week 3 - working knowledge of numbers 1 to 3 and apply knowledge in practical situations.
- ☺ Week 4 - working knowledge of 4 and its value. To recap on numbers 1,2 and 3 and understand the different ways to represent these.
- ☺ Week 5 - working knowledge of 5 and its value. To recap on numbers 1,2, 3 and 4 and understand the different ways to represent these.
- ☺ Week 6 - working knowledge of numbers 1 to 5 whilst beginning to develop an understanding of 1 more and 1 fewer.
- ☺ Week 7 - time, begin to talk about night and day and events in their daily routine and explore how time can be measured in its simplest form such as counting the number of sleeps.
- ☺ Week 8 - concept of zero, how this can be represented in practical activities and how it can be recorded.



Art – Matisse

- ☺ Studying the famous paintings by Matisse
- ☺ Developing scissor skills and control to cut shapes.
- ☺ Producing a showstopper based on the work of Matisse.

PSHE through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

Our theme this half term across the school is Celebrating Difference.

- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Accepting that everyone is different.
- ☺ Using kind words, giving compliments, including others and solving problems.
- ☺ I can explain ways that I can make myself happy if I am feeling sad.



Music

- ☺ Introduce themselves, Say and sing their name confidently.
- ☺ To tap and play a steady pulse.
- ☺ To sing simple tunes by call and response.
- ☺ To be able to play up and down the musical ladder, exploring pitch.
- ☺ To be able to play the rhythm of their name.



PE – Ball skills

- ☺ Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.
- ☺ Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility.
- ☺ Develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming.

Class Mascot Bear

Now each class has a mascot bear children can take turns to have the bear over the weekend for 3 sleeps. You can keep a diary of the bear's visit if you wish so your child can share their adventures with their class. Post pictures and a commentary onto Tapestry or use the card supplied in the bear's bag to make a hard copy, up to you! Children enjoy sharing their diary of events with their peers. We look forward to hearing all about the adventures of the 3 bears; Lucky, Lovey and Coco – which the children named through a class vote.



Reading Books

Don't forget to get your child's reading book changed each week on a Friday, not a Monday as it says on the front of the red book. Place it in the basket next to your child's self-registration board with the red book. The class teacher will change it during the day. Please note the titles of the books your child has read in their red book so we can ensure they get a different one over the next couple of week your child will also be bringing home words to match the reading book.

Phonic Take Home Cards

Your child should be bringing home 'Phonics Cards' with the phonemes/word lists they have learnt recently. This list is not intended to be used like a spelling test but for parents to be informed about what your child has learnt so you can support them with their reading/writing at home in a fun 'game style' way. Several of you have already posted the activities into Tapestry that your child has been doing at home – we have loved seeing these, thank you!

Christmas Party and Jumper Day



On Thursday 21st December it will be our Christmas Party Day. We will have a special Christmas lunch provided by our school chefs and then have a party in the afternoon. As part of these celebrations, we might have a special visitor who wears a red suit and has a white beard!

Parent Consultation Meetings

We have 2 evenings scheduled and these will be hosted remotely using Microsoft Teams.

Monday 20th November

Tuesday 21st November

You will soon be able to book a meeting via Arbor.

More details are available on the school website.

Across the school we use VIPERS to support the development of reading skills.

V= Vocabulary

I=Inference

P=Prediction

E=Explain

R=Retrieve

S=Sequence

Clothing

Please label all your child's belongings, remember much of the uniform looks the same, so it is difficult to tell whom it belongs to unless it is named. Check you have only your child's items at home for the same reason. We had a lot of brand-new unnamed jumpers and cardigans at the end of last term.

Wow, our star boards look amazing. We have loved reading about what your talented children get up to at home. A few examples are...

- Learning to whistle
- Getting dressed by themselves
- Helping to prepare the dinner
- Going on a nature walk
- Trying a new food
- Being kind



You could upload this news to Tapestry if you prefer?

Christmas Songs

We are delighted to welcome you to our Reception Christmas songs which will take place on at Wednesday 6th December at 9am. We look forward to seeing you all then.



We will send home a support prompt sheet with suggestions of questions you could ask your child in each of these areas. You can access these in the attachment in this parent mail too.

Our Book Reviews this half term



Miss Giles recommends **Slug in Love** by Rachel Bright

I absolutely love this book; it is so fun to read! A warm and jolly book about finding love even when we don't expect it. Doug is a slug in need of a hug. But who wants to hug a slug called Doug? No-one, it seems: Doug asks an ant, a worm and a spider, but none of them are keen. Could it be that Doug is too mucky, sticky and slippery to be loved? When Doug meets Gail the snail, he thinks he's met his perfect match. Yet, Gail doesn't want a hug from Doug. What will Doug do? Fortunately, a surprise meeting with a very lovely ladybird reminds Doug that there's someone for everyone.

The language – grimy, slippery, squelchy, slimy – is brilliant for developing vocabulary and the repetition of the slug rhymes are great for learning and re-reading.

Mrs Benham-Smith recommends – **The Worrysaurus** by R. Bright

It's a beautiful day and Worrysaurus has planned a special picnic. But it isn't long before a small butterfly of worry starts fluttering in his tummy...What if he hasn't brought enough to eat? What if he gets lost in the jungle? What if it rains? With a little help from his mum, Worrysaurus finds a way to soothe the anxious butterflies, chase his fears away, and find peace and happiness in the moment at hand. Discover the perfect book to help every little anxious



Worrysaurus let go of their fears and feel happy in the moment at hand! From Rachel Bright, the bestselling author of *The Lion Inside* and *Love Monster*. Perfect for any reader who might feel the flutter of an anxious butterfly in their tummy, *The Worrysaurus* is sure to become a story time favourite!



Mrs Woods recommends - **Simon Sock** by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet

Simon the stripy sock is an odd sock who sets out on an adventure with the help of his friend to find his missing pair. Simon soon discovers that you don't have to be exactly the same in order to make a perfect pair and that friendship can be found in all kinds of places. I like this book because it is humorous and contains a positive message that it is okay to be different and it is great to make friends who are different to ourselves

Miss Leaney recommends Space Tortoise by Ross Montgomery I love this story so much. Space Tortoise is a beautiful, moving and heartwarming tale written by Ross Montgomery. Space Tortoise is lonely and often wonders where all the other animals are. He can't find any other animals to play with and in a desperate search to find new friends he decides to reach for the stars. This simple, reassuring story about loneliness, friendship, and the importance of being brave enough to explore our world is perfect for any reader who finds making friends a little daunting.



Tapestry - Learning Journeys

We hope you are all managing to access your child's Tapestry Learning Journey, there is already so much in it. We will check in with you at your Parents' Consultation appointment to see how you are getting on with this. Thank you to everyone who has uploaded something from home too, it is wonderful to see. Just a friendly reminder that Tapestry is for positive learning comments and no images should be screen shot. If there are any issues for discussion - please see the class teacher at drop off or pick up or drop us an email on

reception@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk



Values

Each month we focus on a different value across the school. There are 33 school values in total that rotate on a 3-year cycle, please see the school website for more information. This half term our values are Forgiveness (November) and Trust (December).

Independence

Please encourage your child to become more independent by managing their belongings themselves. We are encouraging children to put on their coats independently doing up the zip by themselves. We are teaching the children to store their gloves in their pockets and their hats down one sleeve of their coat when it is not being worn. Hopefully this will prevent them from getting misplaced.

Routines

- ☺ Each class will visit the library for a regular session every week. Your child will be able to borrow a book, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it.
- ☺ Library days: Beetles – Mondays, Honeybees – Mondays and Fireflies – Tuesdays.
- ☺ Music in the music room with Mrs. Horwood on Wednesday mornings.
- ☺ PE Sessions with Mr Neal and Mr Smyth on Thursday and Friday mornings – children come to school dressed in PE kit.
- ☺ All PPA (teacher time for planning, preparation and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Miss Leaney will take PPA on Thursday, Mrs. Woods will take PPA on Wednesday and alternating Monday afternoons and Miss Giles on Tuesday afternoons.

Staffing

- ☺ Beetles: Mrs Woods (Reception & Nursery leader) & Ms Tyrrell (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Fireflies: Miss Giles (class teacher) & Mrs Savage (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Honeybees: Miss Leaney (class teacher) & Mrs Wright (teaching assistant)
- ☺ Our HLTA Miss Smith will teach across all 3 classes.
- ☺ General teaching assistants Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Parry, Mrs Davis & Mrs Patel.