



Welcome to Reception Summer 1 Newsletter 2024

We hope you enjoyed the Easter break and some sunshine too. The children have returned to school, rested and well, after a well-needed break. Thank you all for your continued support at school and we are looking forward to yet another successful term.

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.

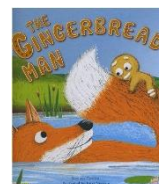
Week 1 - EID

- ☺ How can this festival be celebrated?
- ☺ Sharing home experiences and preparation.
- ☺ Developing tolerance and understanding of other faiths/beliefs.
- ☺ Phonics – Review Phase 3 sounds and words with short vowels /CVCC/.
- ☺ Tricky Words - /said/so/have/like/
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in the correct sequence and applying Phase 2 and 3 knowledge.
- ☺ Reading – The Most Exciting Eid
- ☺ Song of the week - [Froggy went a courting](#)



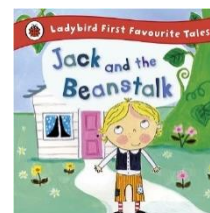
Week 2 - The Gingerbread Man

- ☺ Sequencing events from the story.
- ☺ Reading and retelling the traditional tale using story language.
- ☺ Understanding beginning, middle and end.
- ☺ Phonics - Review Phase 3 sounds and words with short vowels /CVCC/CCVC/ e.g. tent, pink, joint etc
- ☺ Tricky Words - /some/come/love/do/
- ☺ Reading - Gingerbread Man.
- ☺ Writing – Using their phonic skills to write 4 different plot points for the story.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Do You Know the Muffin Man?](#)



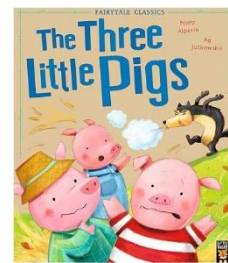
Week 3 – Jack and the Beanstalk

- ☺ Sequencing events from the story.
- ☺ Reading and retelling the traditional tale using story language.
- ☺ Understanding beginning, middle and end.
- ☺ Phonics – words with more than one syllable and longer words.
- ☺ Tricky words -/were/here/little/says/
- ☺ Writing with growing confidence 3 and 4 word sentences based on a traditional tale.
- ☺ Reading - Jack and the Beanstalk.
- ☺ Song of the week - [If You're Happy and You Know It](#)



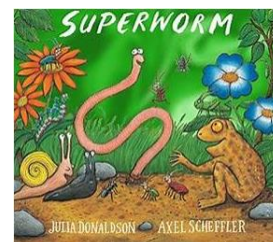
Week 4 – 3 Little Pigs

- ☺ Sequencing events from the story.
- ☺ Reading and retelling the traditional tale using story language.
- ☺ Understanding beginning, middle and end.
- ☺ Beginning to use story language when retelling a familiar text.
- ☺ Phonics – words with short vowels /CCVCC/CCCVC/CCCVCC/ and longer words.
- ☺ Tricky words - /there/one/what/who/
- ☺ Writing with growing confidence sentences loosely based on a traditional tale.
- ☺ Reading – 3 Little Pigs.
- ☺ Song of the week - [The Animals Went in Two by Two](#)



Week 5 - Minibeasts

- ☺ Describing features of minibeasts and their habitat.
- ☺ Retelling favourite stories which include minibeasts.
- ☺ Using and applying scientific vocabulary.
- ☺ Explaining what is seen in homes, gardens and on seasonal walks.
- ☺ Phonics – longer compound.
- ☺ Tricky Words - /out/today/
- ☺ Applying and using phonic toolkit to write a thank you letter.
- ☺ Reading 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson.
- ☺ Song of the week – [Wiggly Woo](#)

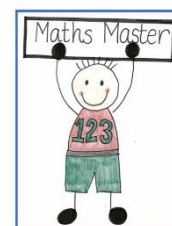


Week 6 - Space

- ☺ Looking at astronauts.
- ☺ Describing the equipment that the children will need on their journey.
- ☺ Having a story read to us from space.
- ☺ Phonics – assessment week.
- ☺ Writing a set of instructions and using numbers to order the sequence.
- ☺ Reading Space Tortoise.
- ☺ Song of the week [Space song](#)

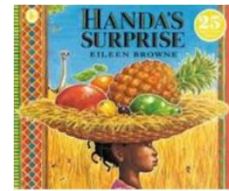
Numbers & Patterns

- ☺ Week 1 – To develop an understanding of the concept taking away. To know that the answer is fewer when subtracting.
- ☺ Week 2 – To be able to understand that doubling means 'twice as many'. To develop the understanding that numbers can be doubled as well as objects. To play with, explore doubling and explore early symmetry.
- ☺ Week 3 - To develop an understanding of sharing and grouping. To recognise and make equal groups and notice that sometimes there are left over when they share or group.
- ☺ Week 4 – To develop knowledge and strategies to be able to solve problems. To record ideas mathematically, make reasonable estimations, explore properties of shapes, refine ideas to find better or more efficient approaches. To reason and explain findings.
- ☺ Week 5 – To consolidate and increase understanding of sharing, doubling, adding and taking away.
- ☺ Week 6 - To develop an understanding of odd and even numbers. To develop an understanding that not all numbers can be shared equally.



Art – Handa’s Surprise

- ☺ Using the story ‘Handa’s Surprise’ by Eileen Browne. As a stimulus.
- ☺ Developing an understanding of how to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form.
- ☺ Producing a clay fruit showstopper.



PSHE through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

- ☺ Our theme this half term across the school is ‘Relationships’.
- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Understanding what make the right choices and how we can follow our golden rules.
- ☺ Understanding that the children have rights, including playing and learning.
- ☺ Developing an understanding of what the consequences are of breaking the rules.



Music

- ☺ Introduce themselves, say and sing their name confidently.
- ☺ To play and sing at the right time.
- ☺ To recall names of tuned and un-tuned percussion.
- ☺ To use musical vocabulary e.g. pulse, rhythm, tempo.
- ☺ To gain confidence by performing to an audience.
- ☺ To sing with increasing confidence.



PE – Athletics 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.
- ☺ Taking part in competitive sports.
- ☺ To understand physical speed and linear movements.



Reception Show

In the Summer term, we will be holding our end of year show, which will be a summary of our year. We look forward to welcoming you into the large hall for these performances. 2 adults from each family will be welcome to attend, younger siblings are welcome too if they can sit quietly. The showcase will be held in the large hall on Wednesday 15th May at 9am and 2.30pm.

Water Bottles

As the weather will be heating up as we move into the summer months it is important your child brings a named water bottle into school. The bottles are readily available to the children throughout the day, and they may help themselves when they are thirsty.

Sun Protection

After a little taste of sunnier weather over the Easter holiday we are excited for the onset of summer, so in preparation for this the children will need some sun protection. There are creams available that last for 6 hours; if this is applied in the morning before school it will be easier for your child to manage than trying to apply cream during the day. Unfortunately, adults in school can not apply sun cream to children as they are not prescribed creams. Your child may also like to bring a sunhat and some sunglasses, please ensure these are named.

Summer Holiday Role Play

During Summer 2, we are hoping to set up a role play focused on going on holiday. We will have suitcases for the children to fill to pack for an imaginary trip. For this we are asking for donations of summer clothes, empty suntan lotion bottles, swimming towels and other associated items.

Head Lice

We are sorry to report that we have had a few cases of head lice in the Reception year group. They can be notoriously hard to get rid of. We recommend checking your child's hair every day. Previously some parents have said that Tea Tree shampoo is a good deterrent for these pesky creatures, and we would be happy to share any good tips you have found for managing these.

Ideas for Home

Lots of you asked us for ways you can support your child at home. Please check out the attached booklets for Early Reading and Numbers & Patterns for ideas, websites, songs and apps that you could try at home. Please remember the most important thing is reading with your child. Our favourite apps are Teach Your Monster to Read and White Rose 1 Minute Maths. Below are some book reviews, favourites from our teachers that you might enjoy reading at home.

The [Healthier Together](#) website is a digital resource designed to support children, young people and their parents/carers. It aims to empower parents and carers – giving them the right tools to manage their children and young people's physical health and emotional well-being.

The section for [Parents/Carers](#) covers key areas such as 'Should my child go to school/nursery today', information on a range of common illnesses and childhood vaccinations, in addition to a large section on SEND.



Reading Books

To change your child's reading book regularly, place it into your child's book bag with the little red book every day. The class teacher will change it during the day. Please note the titles of the books your child has read in their little red book so we can ensure they have a different one. Reading with your child for 10-15 mins as often as possible has such a huge impact on their reading and writing skills and development.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOOKS ARE RETURNED EVERY DAY AS THIS WILL BE USED FOR GUIDED READING.

Wednesday Assembly and Rising Stars

The Reception children will continue to attend assembly on a Wednesday afternoon. We have been very impressed with how the children sit and pay attention. Most Wednesday assemblies will include Rising Stars. Each week 2 pupils from every class are awarded a certificate for outstanding learning or behaviour. The assemblies will have a focus on our monthly school value, festivals from around the world and current affairs. School Values: April – Patience, May – Generosity.

Keeping in touch

If there are any issues for discussion - please see your child's teacher at drop off or pick up or send us an email on reception@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk. Please note that when we are teaching the email address may not be checked until the end of the day. If you have a matter that needs addressing before the end of the day, it would be best to contact us through the office.

Rainbow Readers

Well, done to so many of our families who continued to keep track of the rainbow reading, the children love being awarded the certificates. If anyone has any outstanding, from the Easter holiday, please do send them into your child's class teacher and we will make sure your child is awarded the appropriate certificate.

Priory Rise Parent Portal

Did you know Priory Rise School is on Facebook? There is a private portal that you can request to join to keep up with the latest events and news of what is happening at Priory Rise. There are some wonderful photos of children participating in events in and out of school. To join – search for the portal and complete the questions, agree to the rules, to be accepted into the group. Children who do not have photo permissions will not be included in photos on this social media

Our Book Reviews this half term

Mrs Woods recommends 'On the Way Home'

"Well," said Claire, "there was a very big, bad wolf ... Claire has hurt her knee so she sets off home to tell her mum all about it. On the way she meets her friends and tells them how the fall happened.

But just how did it happen ...? Was she dropped by a wolf, a slithering snake, an enormous dragon or a hairy gorilla? By the author and illustrator of the bestselling "Peace At Last" and "Whatever Next", this is a fantastic journey of the imagination that every child can relate to.



Mrs Benham-Smith recommends Dragon Post by Emily Yarlett

A fiery story about friendship and asking for help - from award-winning author-illustrator Emma Yarlett.

One day Alex finds a dragon living under his stairs. He isn't sure what to do - but luckily, he knows just who to ask for help. Open the envelopes and read the hilarious letters Alex receives from the fire brigade, the butcher and more, as he tries to take care of his new friend. Who would have thought having a dragon for a pet would be so tricky? A joyful, touching and vibrantly illustrated interactive book.



Miss Leaney recommends All Are Welcome

All Are Welcome is a lovely, heartwarming picture book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all children. Throughout this story, we get to experience and follow the children through a day in a school that mirrors Priory Rise. Where everyone is welcomed with open arms, differences are celebrated and tolerance, integrity and respect lay the foundations of everything we do. A school where everyone grows and learns from each other in a happy, nurturing community. All Are Welcome lets children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.



Miss Miss Giles recommends The Most Exciting Eid

This week we have looking at the festival Eid. I have loved sharing this story with my class.

Safa can't wait for Eid al-Fitr! She loves the special decorations, the henna patterns Mum puts on their hands, the yummy food and the big family gathering. That morning, after the family arrive, they open gifts and Safa gets everything she wanted, including a new bike! Her cousin Alissa shouts after her as she rides off, but Safa doesn't feel like sharing. Luckily, Mum has a plan for an activity to show Safa how much joy can be found in sharing.



This beautiful book is full of warmth and happiness. Safa's delight in bringing other people happiness is infectious. The illustrations explode with colour, full of gorgeous patterns and tiny details. The perfect picture book showcasing the pleasure of festivals and celebrations.

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.