

Foundation Stage Newsletter Autumn 2 2022

Reception - Beetles, Fireflies and Honeybees



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.

This half term our topics are 'Seasonal Celebrations, Autumn, Spiders, Safety, Contrasting Locality – Dubai and The Snowman'. Here is some information about the skills and knowledge your child will be learning linked to these topics.

Communication and Language: Explaining ideas in well-constructed sentences, sharing opinions and thinking, engaging in story times and responding with relevant questions and retelling familiar stories, sitting quietly and appropriately during activities being able to look at the adult, focusing and concentration skills, following 2-part instructions, describing how to keep oneself healthy, looking at menus and using related vocabulary, Christmas songs.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Sharing, turn taking, resolving differences, making friends, showing kindness, being honest, understanding the importance of truth, persevering when faced with challenge, regulating emotions and understanding the feelings of others, selecting activities and resources and asking for help when needed.

Physical Development: 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, Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming. Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: - regular physical activity - healthy eating - toothbrushing - sensible amounts of 'screen time' - having a good sleep routine - being a safe pedestrian, Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully: • lining up and queuing • mealtimes • personal hygiene, Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.

Literacy: Re-read books to build up confidence with word reading, learn the single sounds for all letters, blend 3 letters together in order to read a word independently, demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them, ask questions about what has been read to deepen understanding, write correctly formed recognisable letters, write words by identifying sound in them and recording them in the order they can be heard.

Numeracy: Count objects, actions and sounds, Subitise numbers to 6, Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value, Count beyond ten, Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers, Explore the composition of numbers to 10, Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–10, Compare numbers, Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills, Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can, Continue, copy and create repeating patterns.

Understanding of the World: Looking at similarities and differences in homes and families in our class and around the world, describe Diwali and Christmas, Talk about members of their immediate family and community, Name and describe people who are familiar to them, Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live, Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Expressive Arts and Design: Working with a range of media to create different effects, construction kits, making cards, wrapping presents, Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings, work with chalk and charcoal and learn techniques, Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.

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.

Meet the Team:

Mrs Benham-Smith - Assistant Headteacher/Foundation Stage leader/Beetles teacher
Miss Giles – Fireflies Teacher
Miss Leaney – Honeybees Teacher
Mrs Woods – Beetles Teacher
Miss Ashby – Honeybees teaching assistant
Mrs Savage – Beetles teaching assistant
Miss Smith – Higher level teaching assistant
Mrs Tyrell – Teaching assistant
Mrs Wright – Fireflies teaching assistant



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!

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@priorityrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk

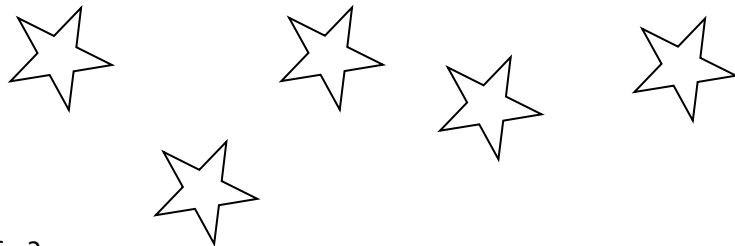
Please note - when we are teaching the email address may not be checked until the end of the day. If you have a matter that needs addressing before the end of the day it would be best to contact us through the office.

Absence should be reported to the office not to the year group email.

Home Learning

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 Party

On Thursday 15th 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!

Rainbow Reader

We will be beginning our Rainbow Readers soon. This is an incentive scheme designed to get your child reading every day. Your child will be able to collect a certificate for each colour of the rainbow and then a gold one once they reach the end. We will send the information about this soon.

We cannot explain how valuable it is for children to be reading/read to regularly, daily ideally, and the huge impact this will have on their future learning journey.



Reading Vipers

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

V= Vocabulary

I=Inference

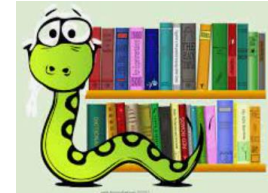
P=Prediction

E=Explain

R=Retrieve

S=Sequence

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.



Go Noodle

Some of you have asked about some of the songs and dances that your child has come home with and where they are from. We use a free website called Go Noodle to learn new dances, practice meditations, and have brain breaks. You may want to set up an account from home, your child will be able to tell you all about their favourites.

Routines

- Your child will be able to borrow a book from the library, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return/damage of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it.

Beetles – Mondays, Honeybees – Mondays and Fireflies – Tuesdays

- Wednesday morning – Music session with Mrs Horwood, our specialist music teacher.

- PE – Thursday mornings with Mr Neal and Friday mornings with Mr Smyth (kit now to be worn all day).

All PPA (out of class teacher time for planning, preparation, and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Miss Leaney will take PPA on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Miss Giles on Friday afternoons and Mrs Woods on Friday mornings.

Parents' Information

There is a Foundation Stage page on the school website with a section all about the Reception classes. This includes our year overview, information about our Foundation Stage and useful websites. This newsletter will be sent out each half term and added to our website page.

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 term our values are Love (September), Honesty (October), Kindness (November) and Trust (December).

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. Children enjoy sharing their diary of events with their peers. We look forward to hearing all about the adventures of the 3 bears; Cutie, Snowflake and Sweetie – which the children named through a class vote.



Meal Choices

We are delighted so many of our Reception children continue to have a hot dinner at lunchtime. Each day the menu is explained and described to the children. The children are supported with their meal choices but we are no longer using the sticker system, as the children prefer to choose once they can see the choices at the counter. If you would like to be more specific about what your child should choose just let the class teacher know at drop off time. We have noticed a huge improvement in table manners and cutlery skills too. Please could you continue to reinforce this at home.

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.

Phonics Workshop

We are delighted to be offering a phonics workshop for parents only, not children, on Thursday 10th November in the large hall. During this session we will take you through a typical phonics lesson and supply you with some ideas on how to

support your child at home with their development.

Suggested Stories

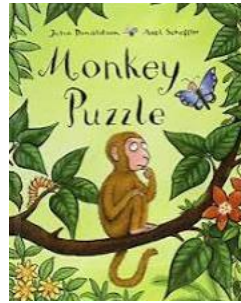
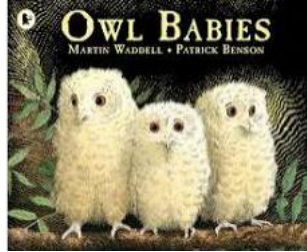
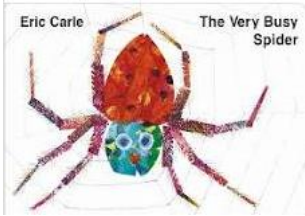
Story books support children enormously with their language development. Here are 4 stories we are going to be focusing on this half term. You may want to practise these with your child, helping them to remember the correct sequence, describe the characters, learn the words and add some actions.

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson

The Stick Man by Julia Donaldson



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. Later this term we will move to the children coming in by themselves as we will come down to the gate to collect them, more information to follow about this nearer the time.

Book Bag



Please make sure your child has a book bag and that it is big enough to fit a large picture book in. Can we ask that book bags are emptied on a regular basis to minimise the number of items travelling between home and school, thank you.

