



Welcome to Reception Spring 1 Newsletter 2025

Happy New Year! The children have returned to school rested and refreshed after a well needed break. Thank you for all your support throughout your child's first term at school. We are excited for the Spring Term.



Thank you!

We wanted to say thank you for all the support you are giving your child with managing the transition in the morning, supporting their reading journey and helping them to learn their tricky words on the key chains. Your support doesn't go unnoticed and is much appreciated.

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 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/
- ☺ TW - was you they
- ☺ Reading The Snowman by Raymond Briggs
- ☺ Writing CVC words



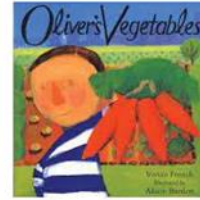
Week 2 Polar Regions

- ☺ Learning to identify parts of the world with different climates to theirs.
- ☺ Identifying where different animals might live there.
- ☺ Going on a winter walk to notice changes in the local environment.
- ☺ Phonics - Phase 3 /oo/oo/ar/or/
- ☺ Tricky Words - my by all
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in the correct sequence and applying Phase 2 and 3 knowledge.
- ☺ Writing CVC words e.g. /mop/pit/can/fell/
- ☺ Reading - Here Comes Jack Frost by Kazuno Kohara
- ☺ Songs of the week –[Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush](#)



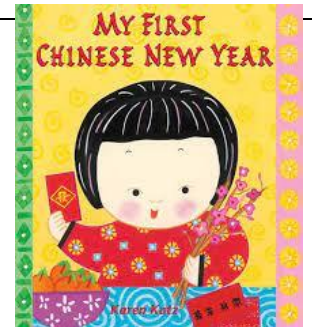
Week 3 Healthy Lifestyles

- ☺ Develop an understanding of how to make healthy choices.
- ☺ To know different ways to keep ourselves healthy.
- ☺ Explore sleep, washing, diet, attitude, safety and exercise.
- ☺ Phonics - /ur/ow/oi/ear/
- ☺ TW - my by
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in sequence.
- ☺ Building CCVC/CVCC e.g. flip, slam, hush, junk.
- ☺ Reading Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French
- ☺ Song of the week - [One Tomato, Two Tomatoes](#)
- ☺ Phonics – longer words such as /ladder/pocket/chicken/
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in sequence when writing a shopping list.
- ☺ Reading Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browse
- ☺ Song of the week - [Brush Your Teeth](#)



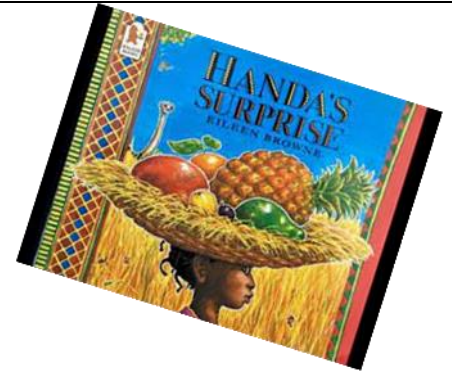
Week 4 Chinese New Year

- ☺ Talking about experiences of Chinese New Year and how to celebrate it.
- ☺ Sharing home experiences.
- ☺ Develop understanding and tolerance of other faiths.
- ☺ Phonics – /air/er/ words with double letters:/dd/mm/tt/bb/rr/gg/pp/ff/
- ☺ TW - are sure pure
- ☺ Beginning to write a 4-word sentence.
- ☺ Begin to think about capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.
- ☺ Reading My First Chinese New Year, Zog by J Donaldson.
- ☺ Song of the week - [I am the Baker Man](#)



Week 5 Healthy Lifestyles

- ☺ Exploring dental hygiene routine.
- ☺ Understanding how to keep teeth clean and healthy through care and diet.
- ☺ Sharing experiences of going to the dentist.
- ☺ Beginning to write a 4-word sentence.
- ☺ Phonics – longer words such as /ladder/pocket/chicken/
- ☺ Hearing and writing sounds in sequence when writing a shopping list.
- ☺ Reading Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browse
- ☺ Song of the week - [Brush Your Teeth](#)



Week 6 Valentines

- ☺ How do we/could we celebrate Valentine's Day?
- ☺ How do we show someone we love them?
- ☺ Phonics – review and assessment
- ☺ Reading Slug in Love by R. Bright
- ☺ Writing a set of instructions making phonetically plausible attempts.
- ☺ Song of the week - [Dingle Dangle Scarecrow](#)



Numbers & Patterns

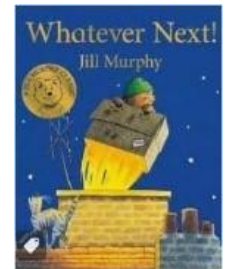
- ☺ Week 1 - Understand mass and capacity, make comparisons, to estimate weight and check using balance scales. Explore capacity using different materials e.g. sand, counters, water etc.
- ☺ Week 2 - Working knowledge of numbers 6 and 7 and their value, their composition and ways in which values can be represented. Continue to develop an understanding of pairs, beginning to combine 2 groups.
- ☺ Week 3 - Good working knowledge of 7 and 8, their value and ways to represent this. Continue to develop an understanding of pairs, doubling and halving numbers and days of the week.
- ☺ Week 4 – Working knowledge of 8 and its value. Begin to combine numbers to find totals. Begin to understand measures of time, height and length and make comparisons.
- ☺ Week 5 - Good working knowledge of 9 and 10 and their value. Begin to combine numbers to find totals.
- ☺ Week 6 - Good working knowledge of 10, representing number 10 in different ways and exploring number bonds to 5 using objects.



Art – Rockets

- ☺ Using the story 'Whatever Next' as a stimulus.
- ☺ Developing construction, joining and engineering skills.
- ☺ Producing a rocket showstopper.

Please can you bring in a bottle for your child labelled with their name from week 4



PSHE through our whole school programme - Jigsaw

- ☺ Our theme this half term across the school is Dreams and Goals.
- ☺ Meditation, looking after own wellbeing and calming strategies.
- ☺ Understanding why it is important not to give up.
- ☺ Setting goals.
- ☺ Using kind words, giving compliments, including others and solving problems.



Music

- ☺ Introduce themselves, say and sing their name confidently.
- ☺ Tap and play a steady pulse.
- ☺ Sing simple tunes by call and response.
- ☺ Play up and down the musical ladder, exploring pitch.
- ☺ 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.

New Register System

Self-registration boards will change this term. From Monday 6th January we are asking children to self-register by writing their names on a post-it note then sticking it onto a word card on the board. Each word card has different decodable or tricky word for the children to practise each morning. We will then move onto children writing a little message each morning e.g., 'Hello' 'Good morning' 'How are you?' etc, as they become more competent writers.



Come Dine with Us

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school to have lunch with their child and the rest of their class. If you would like to accept our invitation, please complete the booking form in Arbor.

- Beetles Class: 13th - 17th January 2025
- Honeybees: 20th - 24th January 2025
- Fireflies: 27th - 31st January 2025

Books and Key Chains

Please remember your child's reading book is changed regularly by placing it in their bookbag every day for them to put into the basket by the register board. The class teacher will change it during the day. Please note the titles of the books that your child has read in their contact book so that we can make sure they have a different one.

Library

Please can you ensure that library books are returned each week, so your child can receive a new book.

Parents Evening

These will be held in person after the half term holiday during March. Parents will be invited into school. More details about appointments to follow nearer the time.

Chinese New Year Dress up Day

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Friday 9th February. If your child would like to come dress in red and yellow colours.

Purple Mash

To support our Computing curriculum across the school we use the brilliant Purple Mash. There is an Early Years section of this called Mini Mash. Your child will bring home their login details for this on a little card – look out for this. You will be able to login at home and complete the activities in Mini Mash. We will pin to the Mini Mash classroom any specific activities that link to our topic for the week.



Ideas for Home

Lots of you asked us for ways you can support your child at home. Please check out the a 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 from our teachers.

Uniform

Please ensure all your child's school uniform is labelled with their name. We have many items, especially jumpers, fleeces and coats that are not named, as well as a collection of hats, scarves, and gloves. Please check you only have your child's items at home, there are a few children missing some named items and we have not been able to locate them. When items have

Phonic Take Home Cards

Your child should be bringing home unit 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 their child has learnt so you can support them with their reading/writing at home. Don't forget to collect these from your child's book bag.

been unclaimed for a while we put them into the school lost property which can be accessed through the school office.

Reading

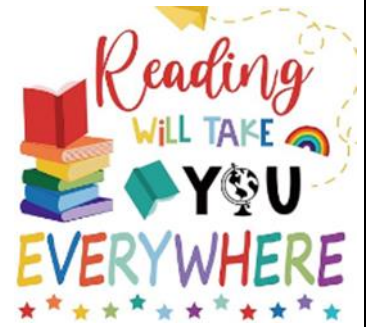
We cannot explain how important it is for your child to be reading regularly, ideally daily. Here are some interesting facts for you about reading...

If a child reads for just 20 minutes a day, they will hear 1.8 million words per year and they will have read for 851 hours by Year 6. Daily reading helps your brain make connections between written and spoken words which broaden the vocabulary. Strengthens family relationships – for a moment you are all able to escape worries and experience art in the written form.

Blending Sounds

If your child is not doing so already this half term they should move towards being able to blend 3 sounds in order to read words independently. Keep modelling this daily for

your child until they can master this skill, it may take longer for some children than others. If you feel you would like some support for your child with this skill please speak to the class teacher.



Wednesday Assembly and Rising stars

Reception children will begin to have year group assemblies on Wednesday afternoons in the small hall. The focus of these assemblies will be around our school values. The values for this term are January – Aspiration, February – Equality, March – Friendship and April taking Pride. In the assemblies we will be awarding Rising Star certificates which is a whole school reward practice. Every week 2 pupils from each class are awarded a certificate for outstanding learning or behaviour.



Parent's Information

There is a Foundation Stage page on the school website. This includes our year overview, information about our Foundation Stage, the Reception year, and useful websites. If you missed the phonics workshop the slides for the presentation can be found here.

Priory Rise Facebook

Did you know Priory Rise School is on Facebook? There is an open page 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 by Jill Murphy

On the Way Home by Jill Murphy is a fantastic repeating story book to inspire your imagination. Claire has hurt her knee so she sets off home to tell her mom all about it. On the way she meets her friends and tells them each a different story on how she got her scrape. Was she dropped by a wolf, a slithering snake, an enormous dragon, or a hairy gorilla? Just how did that scrape happen? Playful and creative, this is a fantastic journey of the imagination that every child can relate to.





Mrs Benham-Smith recommends – The Smeds and the Smoos by J Donaldson

The Smeds who are red, never mix with the Smoos who are blue, so when Janet and Bill, a young Smed and Smoo, fall in love, their families strongly disapprove. But love conquers all and, in the happiest of happy endings, Janet and Bill not only bring their warring blue and red families together -- they also celebrate the arrival of their beautiful purple baby. A story of friendship and family - celebration of embracing our differences.

Miss Leaney recommends - Owl Babies by M Waddell

Percy, Sarah and Bill wake up one night in their hole in the tree to find that their mother has gone, so they eagerly wait for their mummy to come home to them. The longer the wait, the more worried they become. Just like most of us, the baby owls don't feel safe without their mum. They have to try and stay calm and care for each other. At last she does, and they all bounce up and down with joy, welcoming her home. This book is full of some beautifully detailed pictures which help to show you how the owls are feeling throughout the story. It's a great book to read and share, especially at bedtime!



Miss Giles recommends - The Snail and the Whale by J Donaldson

I love sharing the story 'The Snail and the Whale' with my class. It is all about a snail that hitches a ride with a whale, and they go on an adventure together. Until disaster strikes when the whale gets beached. Can the tiny snail save the day? I like that this book has a strong message about confidence and the moral that if we try hard enough anything is possible. It is also a tale of bravery by the small snail as he tries to help his friend.



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 Elkington 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 mornings and Miss Giles on Friday mornings.

Staffing

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