Hatch Warren Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a lovely half term holiday. We are now well into Autumn and heading for Winter so please make sure that your child is prepared for the weather by providing them with a named warm coat, a named hat and named gloves.

Topics for the Term

Our first topic of the half term will be ***When I grow up.*** In this topic we will be looking at a range of different jobs that the children may aspire to do. We are looking for parents to come into school to talk to the children about their jobs and the roles they have. If this is something that you would like to support us with then please speak to your child's class teacher for more information. For the rest of the half term we will be full of **'Christmas Cheer'**, we will be very busy and will make sure we have lots of fun. For more information regarding both topics please refer to the topic grids attached to this letter. Don't forget to look for the 'Christmas Cheer Home Challenge'.

Phonics stay and learn sessions:

As you would have seen in the mailing, Mrs Flodman is running a phonics presentation evening for parents to attend on Thursday 5th November at 5.30pm. Following on from this, we are offering half hour sessions for you to attend a phonics lesson on Monday 9th November between 9.15 and 11.45 with your child. Please refer back to the letter and sign-up sheet at your classroom door to arrange your timing for this session.

Supporting Mathematics at home!

We realise that a lot of the work that comes home for you to support your child with home learning has a literacy focus. With mathematics being just as important in your child's development this section of the newsletter will give you an overview of the maths we will focus on this half term and some activities that you can do at home to support your child's development. This half term we will be continuing to look at counting, recognising numbers, finding one more/less and ordering numbers up to 5, so this is a good place to start when working with your child at home in Maths. Please use the numbers in the pack that we sent home to work with your child. Once they are confident to 5 please keep going! We will also be looking at 2D shapes. In order to help your child at home with these areas, here are some suggested vocabulary lists, activities and websites to help you:

Place Value/Subtraction & Addition:

Key vocabulary- add, more, make, total, altogether, take, take away, how many more? how many left? difference between, less, fewer, how many more is… than…?

Activities-

Hide all the numbers around the room and your children to put them in order, pick a number and count out that many objects or work out what would be one more or less. Board games, such as snakes and ladders, is a good place to start with addition. Encourage your child to add the spots on a dice together. Use objects to aid addition and subtraction to 10. Say a number problem e.g. there were 2 teddy bears at the teddy bears picnic and 5 more came along. How many teddy bears are at the teddy bears picnic now? Or there were 6 dolls at a party and 3 decided to leave. How many dolls are still at the party?

Websites-

https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/todays-number-up-to-20
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/numberblocks-make-and-play

2D Shape:

Key Vocabulary: circle, triangle, square, rectangle, oblong, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, side, corner, properties

Activities: Looking for 2D shapes around the house and whilst out. Talking about their properties and discussing similarities and differences between shapes.

Websites:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bp2qlb/numberblocks-series-3-flatland
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/early-years/shape-monsters

We do hope these ideas will help you and your child with ideas for Maths at home. Remember to make it fun not a chore! Also, see if you can have a go at the Maths Challenge below and look out for the Maths related talking point in your child's talk book.

Maths Challenge

Can you find items at home that are heavier and lighter than a large can of baked beans?

Record your findings how you wish. It could be pictorial, written, a photograph or another method of your choice. Bring it in on Monday 23rd November. Make sure your child can use comparative language- heavier/heaviest, lighter/lightest- and can talk about what they have found out. Have fun!

Useful Information

We are aware that we often provide these reminders but they are still not being followed by all and if followed, they really do help things to run smoothly in school. Your support is really appreciated by all the members of the Early Years unit including the children. Thank you!

1. **WATER BOTTLES**. Please remember that your child needs to have a water bottle in school daily and it should be a sports style bottle. Please make sure that their name is clear on their bottle.

2. **SNACK**. All children are provided with a free snack of fruit or vegetables every day. If your child wishes to bring their own please make sure it is in a small, named container. If you do provide your child with a snack from home then please ensure it only contains **fruit, vegetables or bread sticks**.

3. **NAMING ITEMS**.

Please ensure that you have all your child's possessions named including lunchboxes, water bottles, PE kit, coat, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. We have a box full of gloves and jumpers with no name on them. Also please name any containers you use inside the lunchbox. Remember no nuts or peanut butter please in your child's lunch. Thank you.

4. BOOKBAGS. Please could you make sure you regularly check and tidy out your child's book bag. We often find book bags full of letters and notes that have been sent home for you and often party invites that have been missed. **Please do not put water bottles in book bags** as we lose so many reading books due to this. Also a reminder not to put keyrings on the handles of book bags. These often get caught in their drawers and there is not room for them. Thank you for your help with this.

5. READING

Your child needs to bring their book bag to school every day. Daily reading has now begun and it is vital that you continue to support your child at home. Please try to hear your child read and practise their words every day, it really will make a huge difference to the progress that they make. Don't forget to write what you have done in their Reading Record.

Each time the children read with you at home we record it in the back of their reading record and they receive a special sticker if they have read three or more times a week over the half-term. The child that has read most in each class will receive a special prize. Don't forget if there is anything you would like to ask us, feel free to come in and speak to any member of the team or jot down any messages on the class clipboard.

Reading

Well done to all those children listed below who read at home **10** or more times during last half-term.

Ladybird Class	Bumblebee Class
Freya	Isaac
Grace	Autumn
Mila	Halle
Ellis	Jude
Oakley	Olivia
Nicholas	Sophia
Jett	Quade
Amelia	Nate
Vinnie	Harlow
Eleanor	Kairo
Evlyn	Fraser
Bella	Rosie
Austin	Tihana
Kayleb	Edward
Adonis	Nina
	Winnie

The winners of last half-terms books for the children who read the most were Eleanor from Ladybird Class and Autumn from Bumblebee Class.

Yours Sincerely,

The Early Years Team

When I grow up

The Topic

What do I want to be when I am older? What does the job involve? What jobs do your family members already do?

In this topic we will be looking at lots of different professions including the Fire Service, the Police, Doctors and many more. We will be thinking about what these different people do in their every day jobs, what they wear and the vehicles they use to help them do their jobs.

Literacy

Phonics:

- Introducing these sounds in order: ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, l, ff, ss, ll
- Practise and assess sounds learned so far.

Reading:

Non-fiction and fiction books, Blending CVC sounds, alliteration and spotting digraphs in words, Topic related vocabulary and words mats, Tricky words consistent with their phonics phase.

Writing/Drawing Club:

Child initiated. Each class will decide on three job roles to research in more detail throughout the topic.

Comprehension

Re-telling Stories, Sharing Books, Answering Questions, looking at the difference between non-fiction and fiction books, labelling different parts of the book and answering questions about what they have read.

Communication and Language

- Talk Books
- Children's choice role play
- Spotlight
- Circle Time
- Listening to and responding to stories
- Sharing

Mathematics

- Numbers within five; counting, representing, ordering and conservation.
- One more or fewer.
- Addition and subtraction within 5.
- Shape and sorting.

Calendar and time; days of the week, seasons, sequence daily events, sequencing a day's events

Understanding the World

- Looking at artefacts from the past and comparing them to modern day objects.
- Celebrating children' birthdays. Lighting candles on a Birthday cake and talking about their special day.
- Discussing how they got to school and what mode of transport they used. Introduce children to a rage of transport and where they can be found.
- Museum Day.
- Jesus's Birth

Christmas Home Challenge

Make a Christmas craft to decorate the classroom, using any medium you like! Please bring these in on Monday 7th December.



Personal Social & Emotional Development

- Celebrating differences
- Turtle Time
- I'm special, you're special
- Same and different families and homes
- I am caring
- I am a friend

Expressive Arts and Design

- Singing Christmas songs.
- Cutting and sticking.
- Children's choice Role play.
- Textured paintings.
- Observational drawing.
- Watercolour painting our toy drawings.
- Firework pictures in the style of Jackson Pollock.

Physical Development

- Fine motor control skills; cutting, pegs, beads, puzzles, etc.
- Dough Gym
- Lacing cards
- Using pencils, pens, felt tips, chalks with a good grip
- Large construction
- Bikes and scooters
- Controlling bodies
- Using the hall safely
- Name tracing and writing
- Skills for games – throwing, catching, moving and stopping

Useful Links

- Job mixer | LearnEnglish Kids | British Council
- People Who Help Us Topic for Kids (activityvillage.co.uk)