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Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and that Father Christmas made his way to your house! We are now well into winter so please make sure that your child is prepared for the weather by providing them with a thick, warm coat with a hood, a hat, a pair of gloves and a pair of Wellington boots. In really cold weather children who do not have a warm hat and gloves will not be allowed to access the outside area so please make sure your child has these **named** items every day.

### **Topics for the term**

Our topic for the first week of this term will be **WINTER**. We will be looking at how our outdoor environments have changed and what we notice has changed.

We will then spend the rest of the half term looking at **PEOPLE WHO HELP US**. Throughout this topic we will be learning all about different professions by looking at uniforms, vehicles and job responsibilities. We will start off the topic by asking the children what they think makes a 'Superhero' we will ask them again at the end of the topic to see if their ideas or opinions have changed.

We will be very busy this half term and will make sure we have lots of fun. You will find our topic grids attached to this letter to show you what we will be doing in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

### **Fab Funky Fridays**

We are very excited to be starting to go to the Fire Pit once a half term on a Friday. Each class will take a turn at building, lighting and cooking on the Fire in a three week rotation. Every Friday is Fab funky Friday, so please send your child to school in, old, sensible and weather appropriate clothing. Please remember no skirts or dresses on these days.

### **Supporting Mathematics at home!**

This half term we will be continuing to work with numbers and learning about numbers up 10 in depth, this includes counting forwards and backwards, number formation, recognising numerals, careful and accurate counting of objects, ordering numbers and finding 1 more and 1 less than a number. Now we have covered numbers 1 to 5 intensively in school, working with numbers 6 to 10 would be a good place to start working with your child at home. We will also be looking at introducing addition and subtracting for numbers by using different models such as bar models, tens frames and 'part part wholes'. In order to help your child at home with these areas, here are some suggested vocabularies, activities and websites to help you.



2016



## Counting and ordering numbers -

**Key vocabulary**-zero to twenty, count (up, on, from, to), missing, one more, one less.

**Activities**-Use the number cards provided at the beginning of the year to order the numbers to 10. Play games to see who can be the quickest at ordering the numbers. Try starting from different numbers to make it more challenging. You could play missing number games with your child and involve them in hiding numbers as well. You could use various objects around the home to match quantities to the number cards.

**Website**-<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames/5-7-years/counting>

## Adding and partitioning:

**Key vocabulary**-numbers, how many, add, more, and, make, sum, total, altogether, more, same as.

**Activities**-You can begin by adding objects together around the house including toys/ objects that your child finds interesting. You can make addition fun by making it into games such as throwing snowballs (paper balls) into two buckets and add them together. Similarly, you could use water guns and plastic bottles and add up how many bottles each person has knocked down

**Website**-<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/puzzles/numberblocks-adding-up-quiz>

## Subtracting:

**Key vocabulary**-take away, leave, left, gone.

**Activities**-Similar to the activities in the addition and partitioning section, you can use a range of objects around the house to carry out simple subtraction sums. Again, you can play games where you take things away and count how many you have left. You can begin by singing simple taking away songs such as 'monkeys on the bed' and '5 little ducks' to support counting backwards from a given number.

**Website**-<http://www.ictgames.com/subtraction.htm>

## Using coins:

**Key vocabulary**-money, coin, penny, pence, price, cost, buy, sell, spend, pay, change.

**Activities**-Lots of hands on activities using real coins is a great way to help your child recognise different amounts and coins. Children can pretend to buy things from a shop scenario at home or even when you are in the supermarket/shops. Ask your child to help you count out small amounts of money to buy something. You could also provide your child with their own 'piggy' bank which they can earn small amounts of money for doing 'jobs' around the house.

**Website**-<http://www.ictgames.com/moneysplat.html>

## Maths Challenge

Create a diary of your favourite day. Find a way to represent time and order of routines using time related vocabulary (first, then, next, after that, morning, afternoon, evening).

Record your findings how you wish. It could be pictorial, written, photographs or another method of your choice. Bring it in on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January**. Make sure your child can use time related language- morning, afternoon, evening, before, after, last, yesterday, today, tomorrow, o'clock times- and can talk about what they have found out. Have fun!

## Useful Information

- WATER BOTTLES.** Please remember that your child needs to have a water bottle in school daily and it should only contain PLAIN WATER. Make sure that their name is clear on their bottle.
- 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 or vegetables**.
- 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 bookbag. We often find bookbags 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 bookbags** as we lose so many reading and library books due to this. Also a reminder not to put keyrings on their bookbags. These often get caught in their drawers and there is not room for them. Thank you for your help with this.

### Reading

Well done to all those children listed below who read at home **21** or more times during last half-term.

Ladybird Class	Bumblebee Class	Butterfly Class
Sophie	Carina	Cooper
Cameron	Alfie	Noah
Bluebell	Oscar	Oscar
Olivia	Mikael	Patricia
Remi	Sa'ad	Rania
Delilah	Charlotte	Sofia
Noah	Ela	Swecha
Zahraa	Zack	Theo
Lando	Jordan	Evie
Jessica		
Effie		
Stanley		
Jonah		
Jesse		
Lucie		
Callum		
Amedea		

The winners of last half-terms books for the children who read the most were Bluebell from Ladybird Class, Alfie from Bumblebee Class and Oscar from Butterfly Class.

Your child needs to bring their book bag to school every day. 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. It is very important to record when your child has read at home with you in their red reading record. If you are tight for time, please just date and sign the record, so we know that your child has read that day.

Don't forget if there is anything you would like to ask us, feel free to speak to any member of the team or send us an email through the parent mail address.

Yours Sincerely,

Lucy Page  
Natalie Clarke  
Ladybird Class

Sarah Jolliffe  
Rosa Cooney  
Bumblebee Class  
The Early Years Team

Matthew Effer  
Sarah Difford  
Butterfly Class

# People Who Help Us

## The Topic

What makes a Superhero? What do they look like? We wonder if your child's opinion may change on these questions by the end of this topic...

In this topic we will be looking at lots of different profession 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: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, oo (long them short), ar, or, igh, ur, ow, oi, ear, ur, air and ure.
- 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:

- , Pingu, Super Ted, Fireman Sam

### 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 ten; counting, representing, ordering and conservation.
- One more or fewer.
- Addition and subtraction within 10.
- Calendar and time; days of the week, seasons, sequence daily events, sequencing a days events.
- Money; coin recognition and values.

### Maths Challenge:

Create a diary of a day, a weekend or a week. Find a way to represent time and order of routines using time related vocabulary.

Due Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

## Understanding the World

- Introduce the children to different occupations
- How do the occupations use transport to help them
- Identifying strangers
- Who can help you when you are alone or lost
- Encouraging children to use navigational language.
- Using BeeBots on simple maps

## Home/School Challenge:

We are going to try something a little different for our 'home' challenge this topic and are asking that the children come into school dressed as what they want to be when they are older. This will happen on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February and the children will spend the day talking to each other and creating posters about their job.

## Personal Social & Emotional Development

- What's safe to go onto my body.
- Keeping myself safe- what's safe to go into my body (including medicines)
- Safe indoors and outdoors
- Listening to my feelings
- Keeping safe online
- People who help to keep me safe.

## Expressive Arts and Design

- Singing songs.
- Before and After (children's depictions of what makes a Superhero)
- Collage of different outfits and uniforms.

## 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 tools correctly and safely
- Name tracing and writing
- P.E. Solent Health

## Useful Links

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