



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 **Looking at toys from the Past**. In this topic we will be looking at a range of activities and objects that we use today and comparing them to how they looked a long time ago. We are lucky enough to be handling real artefacts and comparing them to things we would be using today; we will be asking questions like how did it work? What is it made of? And why has it changed? A large part of this topic will be looking at toys and thinking about how they have changed over time and looking at our own toys thinking about the materials they are made of. 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'.

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/b08bzfhn/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 24th 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.

Yours Sincerely,

The Early Years Team



Looking At The Past

The Topic

For this topic, we will begin by looking at the children's favourite toys today. We will look at what the toys are made from and sort them into different sets. We will then look at how the toys they play with today have changed from the ones they played with as babies. After that we will compare toys today with toys from the past. The children will ask their grandparents about the toys they played with as children and we collect all the information together via their Talk Book. We will be having a 'Museum Day' in school where we will be looking at real life artefacts from schools and a selection of toys. We will be looking at homes and schools from the past and comparing these with our own. We will also be visiting Milestones Museum as part of this topic.

Literacy

Phonics:

- Basics 2 and Basics 3.
- Practise and assess sounds learned so far.

Reading:

- Non-fiction and fiction books; Major Glad Major Dizzy, Nothing, Knuffle Bunny, Dogger
- Blending CVC sounds, alliteration and spotting digraphs in words

Writing/Drawing Club:

- Name writing
- Wacky Races, Mrs Armitage on wheels, The Christmas Pine, Dream Snow.

Comprehension

- Re-telling Stories
- Sharing Books
- Answering Questions

Communication and Language

- Exploring new words and their meaning
- Grouping new words
- Asking and answering questions
- Sharing thoughts and ideas
- Listening to and responding to stories and books

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's 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 range 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 1st 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

Purple Mash online painting tool:
<http://www.purplemash.co.uk> search Toys.
Selection of toy related games:
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=Buy2itemsv4>
History of toys:
<http://www.everyschool.co.uk/history-key-stage-1-toys.html>