



The Little Explorers

Summer Newsletter/Terms 5 & 6

Mrs Croston, Mrs Taylor, Miss McGowan, Mrs Mellin
and Mrs Champness



Welcome back

It's hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through the academic year already! We still have so much to pack into the coming terms. We hope that you have enjoyed the Easter and Bank Holiday breaks and that everyone is ready to launch themselves into the penultimate term in Foundation. The parent helper sessions proved to be very popular and we would like to thank you for your support. If you were unable to attend the last parent session and would like to help in the classroom - please pop in and talk to a member of staff.

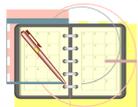
A reminder that as the weather gets warmer and sunnier (we hope!) your child will need to have a hat to wear outside and also please put sun cream on before they come to school. This is a must in hotter, sunnier weather.



It's good to talk...

We continue to be very impressed with the way the children embrace the daily POWWOW talking session (Make Believe Monday and Wonder what Wednesday etc). We will continue to introduce the children to WOW words to use in their talk sessions this term.

Date for your diary



Our class assembly will be on Tuesday 4th July at 9.15am. The children always really enjoy sharing what they have been learning. We very much look forward to seeing you all there! Our class trip to Roves Farm will hopefully be at the start of Term 6. More details will follow nearer the date. We are also hoping to arrange an end of term treat to 'make pizzas' at Pizza Express in Witney (dates to be confirmed).

Parent's Notice Board



Your board for your information is located outside the Y2 classroom, however we have mislaid the keys and would therefore ask that you continue to check the daily whiteboard for all information. Please look regularly to ensure that you are up to date. We have sent home the current show and tell timetable, if you have any problems with the date your child has been assigned please see Mrs Taylor who can rearrange it.

Our Curriculum



This term we continue with our theme, Why do Zebra's have stripes? To finish this topic we would like to offer a face painting afternoon where children can have an African animal face painting. We are hoping that someone knows of a willing volunteer, preferably with face paints, that would be free on Wednesday 24th or Thursday 25th May to paint those children who would like to become a tiger, lion etc. Please speak to a member of the team if you can help. In Term 6 we plan to move to a new topic related to the trip. The theme is based on farms and animals and is entitled Do Cows drink milk?

As you know we take the lead from children's interests - so we may divert from this topic at any time.

As part of transition from FS to Year 1 the children will join the rest of KS1 on the big playground at lunch times. We will start this gradually then extend, as and when we feel they are ready. This is well supervised and they will wear high visibility vests in order to be identified by lunch time staff. In the past this has proved extremely popular. They will also have regular story sessions in the Year 1 class during Term 6.

Writing: We are continuing to really push independent writing throughout the day and are using a variety of strategies such as Super Sentences, book making and the Star Writer capes to do this. Please encourage writing at home and where possible try not to give children sentences to copy as this is merely a handwriting exercise. We need the children to attempt to spell words using phonics where possible and to have a growth mind set when it comes to mistakes and learning.

Maths skills run alongside our topic work. This will include counting, ordering numerals, recognising numbers, exploring shape, space and measures, simple adding and subtracting using objects, as well as exploring halving and doubling. We have already started some counting in steps of 10 and will also continue with this throughout the term (spider counting). The children will also be collecting data linked to our topic. They will also be practising recording number sentences in work books, using correct symbols. Any counting either forwards or backward from 1-30 will be hugely beneficial for the children and we would recommend this on a daily basis. Please refer to your child targets for Maths, Reading and Writing that we discussed at Parents meetings.

Growth Mindset

Each week we will continue to ask one child to select someone else in the class that they think deserves a certificate in the Friday assembly for displaying a growth mindset. We are particularly proud of the FS children who have already been presented certificates in Friday assemblies, Mr Thomas and other adults in school have commented on their loud clear voices when addressing the whole school, something even some Y6's find daunting.



PE Days

The children will have Swimming on Tuesday at 1.00pm and PE on a Tuesday morning with Mr Thomas. This term your child will be working on team games and athletics. Please ensure that your child has t-shirt, shorts/jogging bottoms, plimsolls and trainers for outside. It is essential that all items are clearly named. Can we ask that you check your child's plimsolls still fit and that the velcro is secure.

School Website



If you have internet access the school website is a must for your 'favourites'. As well as general school information, our pages on the school website will be updated regularly with news and photographs of our exciting learning journey together. Please make it a weekly visit when you surf the web and don't forget the online guest book is there for your comments.

At the end of the day



We would like to remind you that children should not play with any equipment set up in the outdoor area before or after school. Please ensure that you remember to take all of your children's belongings. We regularly have fruit tubs/lunchboxes/water bottles left behind. Thank you.

Reading with your child



Can we please remind you that it is very important that you child has their book bag in school every day.

Please encourage your child to point to the words in their story books and sound out the words, using their phonic knowledge and don't forget to use the pictures in the text to help them decode the words. As we are sure you are aware, some words need to be learnt, these words are called tricky words, eg the, and, etc. We continue to focus on these tricky words in the classroom.

Last term we introduced High Frequency Word Lists for children to learn. Please be patient if your child isn't moving on as quickly as others in the class. It is a challenge not a race and some find the challenge takes longer than others. To help your child, practise little and often and make sure that when you practise you change the order around. Many children say that they know them and are disappointed when tested that they don't. This is due to them learning in the order on the sheet, we test the words randomly as this is how they will meet them in texts! If you require a new sheet, please let us know asap.