



Whaplode Church of England Primary School EYFS Newsletter

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all. I hope yourselves and your children enjoyed a well-earned Christmas break! It has been great to hear about all the wonderful things you have been up to, it sounds like Santa has been very busy this year. We are very happy to have everyone back to school with such enthusiasm as we enter 2024!

This newsletter will cover what we will be learning about this term and hopefully answer any questions you may have. If there is anything you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via email or telephone, or, alternatively, pop a message on Tapestry on your child's account.

Thank you for your continued support,
Miss. Wells.

Our Learning

The Big Question we will be focusing on this term is 'What's Outside my Window?', we will be looking at the weather in our environment and making comparisons to other places in the world such as South America. We will also be looking at the changes in seasons in different parts of the world as well as how extreme weathers such as tornadoes impact our environment and how we use it. Towards the end of the term, we will be learning about how plants grow to help us design our garden and decide which seeds we can plant ready for Spring!

Here is an outline of the corresponding class readers that we will focus on each week to support our learning on this topic.

Week 1- The Weather by Jill Mcdonald

Week 2- What's The Weather by Fraiser & Judith Railston

Week 3- Home by Carson Ellis

Week 4- Tree by Bretta Teekentrup

Week 5- The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Week 6- Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen

Phonics

The children have made an amazing start to their phonics so far and have learned 31 sounds already which we are using to learn to read, write and construct words. This term we are continuing to recap the sounds we have already learned whilst using them to read and write words. We will also be introducing some 'Red Words' (words that can only be sight read) as their reading knowledge broadens. If you would like to look at what we are learning, you can access Read Write Inc Resources for Set 1 sounds, green card words and story books using the following link on the Oxford Owl webpage.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>.

Reading

Each week your child will continue to bring home a library book which they will choose themselves from our selection of story books in school. This will continue throughout the year to encourage their love of reading and reading for pleasure.

As your child learns how to use the sounds they know to segment, blend and read, they will bring home a reading book that they can read to you. This begins with what we call, sound blending books. The sound blending books have simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words in, such as; mat, dad, dog, for your child to sound out and blend together.

Sharing books with your child at home will develop their love and enjoyment of reading for pleasure, as well as build on their confidence and fluency when segmenting and blending words. Please ensure you write in your child's home school reading diary to enable us to see if your child is completing their reading each week. There are many free online games in which you can access to support your child in blending to read words as well as reading their reading books at home.

Here are a few websites we use in school;

[Phase 2 phonics - KS1 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Balloon Phonics: Three-Letter Words CVC Game \(topmarks.co.uk\)](#)

Maths

This term, we will be extending our number knowledge by exploring the composition of numbers up to 10 as well as exploring early concepts of capacity, weight and mass. You will see your child's Maths work uploaded onto their Tapestry account on a weekly basis as we use practical activities in our indoor and outdoor area as well as our Maths books to record our learning. We will also be practicing our number formation which can be tricky, therefore, support with this at home would be greatly appreciated.

Outdoor Learning

We have a free flow learning environment where the children can choose to play outside at any time. Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for the time of year. As the weather becomes colder, please make sure your child brings a warm coat, a hat and perhaps some gloves. These can be kept in their locker throughout the day if it is too warm to wear them. Please also ensure **all** of your child's clothing is clearly named to enable any lost pieces of clothing to find its way back to you. Unnamed clothes are difficult to return to the correct child and I appreciate how costly uniform and other clothing can be.

PE

We continue to have PE on a Wednesday meaning your child will need to come into school wearing their PE kit on this day. Please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate footwear and clothing (school colours only) for these sessions. More information about appropriate PE clothing can be accessed on our school website.

Snack time

In the mornings, Reception have free fruit delivered to school which children can help themselves to. If preferred, they can bring **one** healthy snack of their own such as a piece of fruit or 2 plain biscuits. Milk is also available to all children at the age of 4. Once your child has turned 5, this is something you will need to pay a small fee for if you wish your child to continue to have milk. You can contact the school office for details about this. Please also ensure water bottles used in the classroom only have water in them, if your child wishes to bring in juice for lunch time, this must stay in their lockers until then. Thank you.