

Reception Newsletter: 24.4.26



Welcome back to summer term 1



What a wonderful start we have had to the summer term in Reception!



The children returned after the Easter holidays with big smiles on their faces and settled straight back into our daily routines. It has been lovely to see such enthusiasm and positivity from everyone.

We also enjoyed our very first gymnastics lesson in PE with Gail, who was incredibly impressed with the children's listening skills and the fantastic effort they showed as they tried out new gymnastics' movements for the first time.

Phonics and Reading

Following our recent phonics assessment, we have made some changes to the children's groupings. As a result, your child may now have a different teacher, be learning in a new room, and may have new reading books or be revisiting some previous ones.

These groupings are carefully planned based on our half-termly assessments, which help us to track progress and identify any gaps in learning. This ensures we can provide the best possible support for every child as they develop into confident readers. In their new groups, children will revisit previously taught sounds, learn new sounds and words, and practise key reading skills such as "Fred in your head" to build fluency and confidence in preparation for Year 1.

You can support your child's reading development at home with a few simple, regular routines.

- We encourage you to read with your child for just five minutes each day, making it a positive and enjoyable experience.
- Please remember to record any reading in their reading journal so we can celebrate their efforts together.
- It is also helpful to revisit the sounds, as well as the red and green words found at the front of their books or on their cards.
- When reading, encourage your child to use "Fred in your head" to sound out words silently, and then re-read the sentence to help build fluency and word recognition.
- Check your child understands what they have read, they can sense check the sentence by reading it back or answer questions about the story they have read in their ditty book (there are questions at the back of each Ditty book to support this).

These small, consistent steps make a big difference in developing confident, fluent readers.



Change of PE Days for Reception

Don't forget our new PE days will be **Monday and Tuesday**.

Please can children come to school in their PE kits on these days from Summer Term 1.

Children who attend the Sporty Games after-school club on Wednesdays may also come to school in their PE kit on Wednesdays for this club.

Thank you for your support.



New Topic



This term in Reception, our new topic is "Where we live, where you live."

We began by revisiting our learning from last term, when we explored the frog life cycle after discovering frogspawn in our school pond. Building on this, we have introduced our exciting minibeast theme through the much-loved story *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

The children have been learning about caterpillars and how they change into butterflies, developing an understanding of life cycles. They thoroughly enjoyed retelling the story using props, story maps, and puppets, showing great confidence and enthusiasm.

We were especially excited when a surprise package arrived in Reception containing teeny tiny caterpillars. The children were in awe of them, and this sparked lots of rich language, curiosity, and enquiry as we observed them closely.

We also enjoyed hunting for minibeasts in our Forest School garden, where the children explored their natural environment and discovered a variety of small creatures.

We have also linked this theme to our maths learning, exploring doubling through the idea of symmetry in butterfly wings. The children are beginning to understand that doubling means making two equal parts of a whole, and they have enjoyed using this concept in practical and visual ways.



Road Safety Talk

We recently had a road safety talk in school, where the children learned all about how to keep safe when they are near roads and when crossing them. The children were introduced to a catchy new song called "Stop, Look, Listen and Think", which helps them remember the important steps they need to follow to stay safe.

We talked together about what each of these words means when crossing the road and discussed different ways we can keep ourselves safe, such as using zebra crossings, crossing with a lollipop patrol person, and always holding a grown-up's hand. The children also enjoyed seeing some bright, high-visibility slap bands, which are great for wearing over coats during the darker winter months to help them be seen.

Please ask your child what they can remember about our road safety talk and take some time to talk together about how your family stays safe when crossing the road.



Safe in the sun

As the weather begins to change and we move closer to summer, we kindly ask for your support in helping us keep the children safe in the sun. Please ensure that 'all day' sun cream is applied to your child before they come to school, as due to allergies and safeguarding reasons, staff are unable to apply sun cream during the school day. Children are also welcome to bring a named sun hat, which can be kept in their school bag ready for sunnier days. As always, we do need to be prepared for the ever-changing British weather, so please make sure your child also brings a named summer coat to school each day.

Thank you for your continued support.



Important diary dates and information

4.5.26- Bank holiday Monday

5.5.26- 8.5.26- Whole school DT STEM week.

8.5.26- Reception Stephenson Railway trip

21.5.26- School closes for May Half term holiday

22.5.26- Teacher training day

Reminders:

- **Home learning Journals-** Thank you for all the lovely journal entries this week. We will be collecting the journals in on Tuesday 5th May (after the bank holiday weekend).
- **Reading folders-** Please ensure your child's reading folder is in their book bag every day. We change books usually on a Monday and Friday, but we sometimes get a chance to read with your child through the week too. **Please can we remind parents/ carers to record in their child's journal when you have read with your child at home too.**
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- **Labelling items of clothing-** Please can you ensure all items of clothing including hats, gloves, scarfs, shoes, jumpers/cardigans and coats are labelled clearly with your child's name.
- **Cool Milk.** Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5th birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.



Have a lovely weekend.

The Reception Team 😊