

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Dear Reception parents/carers,

Reception Curriculum Letter – Summer (1st half)

Welcome back, we hope you had a fantastic Easter break. We have a busy half term ahead filled with lots of amazing learning opportunities. Our topic is 'Growing' where the children will build on their knowledge of life-cycles of plants and animals. We also have our trip to Iver Environmental Centre to look forward to on Tuesday 16th May.

Below you can find out about what we will be learning in class and how you can support your children at home.

Our Core Values

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

Reception Staffing

Chestnut Class teachers: Mrs Frost and Mrs Robinson

Chestnut Class learning: support assistant; Mrs Anielska

Maple Class teacher: Miss Churchill

Maple Class learning support assistant: Mrs Lamacraft

Communication

You can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

chestnutclass@harefieldinfant.com

mapleclass@harefieldinfant.com

Homework

Maths and English homework is sent home every Friday. Please return this to school by the following Friday or email a photo of completed work to the class email account.

Reading

Library (story) books will come home every Friday. These can be changed on a Friday providing the previous book is returned.

Reading books are sent home every Monday and should be returned every Friday. New books will only be given when the previous book is returned.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our JIGSAW theme this half term is: Relationships. Where the children will be learning all about; what it means to belong, how we may be similar or different from one and other.

How we can get along with everyone, managing our feelings and taking account the views of others. Being a kind and responsible friend.

Communication and Language.

We will be learning lots of new vocabulary linked to our topic of growth. Can you explore the meaning of these new words?

Amphibian, metamorphosis, camouflage, chrysalis, pupa, stem, roots, pollen, life-cycle, insects, antennae.

We will also be learning to act out the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Try allowing your child to retell their favourite stories at home, they could use their toys to be different characters and put on shows for you.

Below are some links to some fun songs you can learn linked to our topic and learning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpKFfeMPCw0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XfSvDJge_4

English

Our main text this half term is 'Jack and the Beanstalk' a traditional tale which we are sure the children are familiar with.

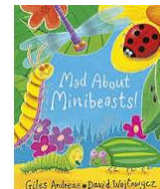
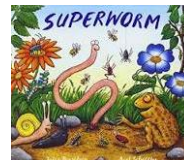
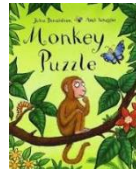
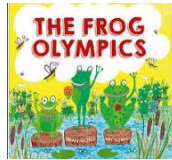
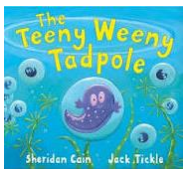
The children will spend time getting to know this story, with text maps, actions and sequencing activities. Before we adapt and change the story to make it our own for our writing.

We will also be writing about our own bean plants as we observe them growing from a seed into a plant.

We will write a recount of our trip to Iver Environmental Centre.

We will learn poems about minibeasts and write about the animals we observe growing in our topic learning.

Some of our supporting texts include:



We are now using the sounds we know to write simple captions and 5 word sentences. At home, you could maybe keep a weekend diary writing a simple caption to go with a picture. I went swimming. I went to the park. Encourage your child to say their sentence out loud several times first. Count the number of words needed. Encourage them to use the sounds they hear to write the words independently at this stage words do not need to be spelt correctly.

Phonics

Children are working at different stages in their phonics groups. We are now beginning to learn new sounds called 'special friends' (two letters one sound for example ay in play). Children who are ready for this will bring home a yellow sound book for you to help your child learn their new sounds.

Look out for emails with links to videos of new sounds learnt in school each week.

Please continue to read with your child every day and ensure books are returned every Friday.

Keep going through the sounds in your green sound book daily too.

Physical Development

PE

This half term we will be taking part in a mini Olympics learning lots of new skills such as under and over arm throwing, catching, jumping and running. Children will be competing in teams, learning to work together and to try their best.

Fine Motor

We are working on perfecting our letter formation, making are writing smaller and neater letters that start and end in the correct place.

We are also working on using scissors with greater accuracy to cut out more complicated shapes.

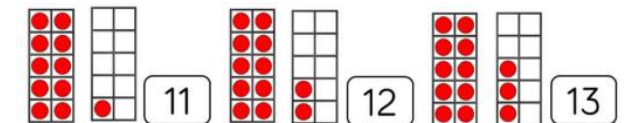
We will continue our work on drawing with increasing detail when learning to draw all the different animals and plants we learn about in our topic.

Mathematics

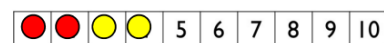
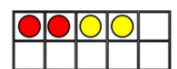
This half terms phases for maths are **'To 20 and Beyond & First, Then, Now'**.

During **'To 20 and beyond'** children will be learning all about teen numbers and how they are made with one ten and ones. We will be learning to say numbers to 20 and back to 0 in the correct order. We will be relating what we know about number bonds to 10 to numbers to 20 and beyond. We will learn to count on or back from different starting points for example count to 20 from 7.

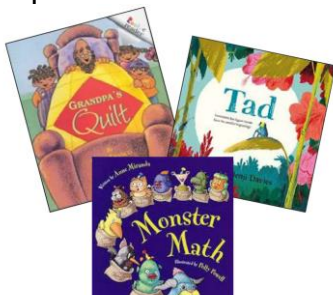
Books that support our learning.



First there were 2 people on the bus.
Then 2 more people got on the bus.
Now there are 4 people on the bus.



During our phase of **'First, Then and Now'** children will be learning to complete addition and subtraction problems using objects to support their learning. We will also be developing our special reasoning when learning the shapes can be combined and separated to make new shapes.



Books that support our learning.

Show the children 2 identical right-angled triangles which have been made by cutting a rectangle in half diagonally. How many new shapes can they make by fitting the triangles together? Can they make shapes with 3 sides? With 4 sides? Can they make a rectangle again? A tall thin triangle? A short fat triangle?

What if they had 4 right-angle triangles?



Understanding the World

ANZAC day is very important for us at Harefield Infants we will learn all about it and why we go down to church to lay flowers each year.

We will take part in lots of exciting activities in school to learn more about the Royal family and the King's Coronation.

We will learn about castles in the UK and around the world.

Our topic Growth and Change will provide lots of opportunities for us to learn about the life cycles of; beans, frogs, butterflies, stick insects to name but a few. Look out our newly planted fruit and vegetables in our outdoor area.

We will find out about which insects and minibeast live in our outdoor area and how we can care for them. As well as the different types of habitats Harefield provides for animals. You could go on nature walks to our local pond or the old park woods to see all that Harefield has to offer.

Art and Design

We will be exploring planning and creating our own 3D models of frogs and insects, learning to combine materials and evaluate our work. We will also explore sculpture and use clay to make our own marvellous bug creations.

We will explore colour mixing and different painting techniques when painting images of different insects.

We will be acting out stories with props during our English work as well as in our role-play areas.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email on our class email accounts.

Yours faithfully

Miss Churchill and Mrs Frost
Reception teachers