

Monday 15th April 2024

Dear Reception parents/carers,

Reception Curriculum Letter – Summer (1st half)

Welcome back, we hope you had an egg-citing Easter break. We have a busy half term ahead filled with lots of amazing learning opportunities. Our topic is 'The Great Outdoors' where the children will build on their knowledge of plants, animals and how to care for our environment. Below you can find out about what we will be learning in class and how you can support your child 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 Lamacraft

Maple Class teacher: Miss Churchill

Maple Class learning support assistant: Mrs Anielska

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.

Two reading books are sent home every Friday 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 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. Recognising and manage our feelings. Work in a team taking into account the feelings of others. Being a kind and responsible friend. Learning about the rights of the child.

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 be working on developing our speaking skills as we give reasons for our answers/thinking across all areas of the curriculum. For example I chose this shape because..... and....

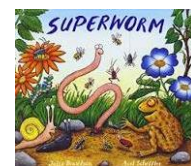
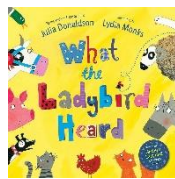
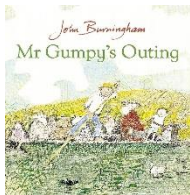
English

Our main text this half term is 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' a well-loved journey story with a funny ending. 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 learn poems about Minibeasts and work on work on performing poems to our class.

Children will come home with a chosen poem to learn.

We will read the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson and use this story to help us learn about maps, drawing and labelling maps and create wanted posters using descriptive language. 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

We are continuing to learn our special friends. By the end of reception children need to be able to confidently say the sounds for these special friends; **ch, th, sh, qu, nk, ng, ay, ee, igh, ow, oo, oo, or, ar, oy, ou**. Keep using their sound books and the video links sent via email to support your child in gaining confidence with this.

Please read your child's reading books daily with them and ensure you return books every Friday so new books can be given.

Physical Development

PE

This half term we will be taking part in a mini Olympics learning many 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.

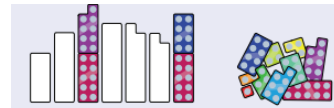
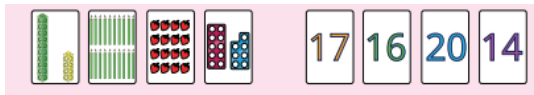
Fine Motor

We are working on perfecting our letter formation, making our writing smaller and neater.

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

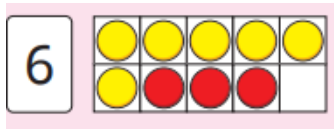
Mathematics

We will learn about numbers to 20 and beyond, the pattern of numbers to 20. We will learn about teen numbers being made of a ten and another number for example 13 is one ten and 3. We will learn to count from different starting points for example counting to 25 from 8. At home you could practice counting to bigger numbers, count the stairs in your house or number of cars in a toy box. You could look for numbers in the environment for example numbers on houses as you walk to school.



Can you match the pictures to the correct number? What numbers can you make with the Numicon? What do you notice about the number 17?

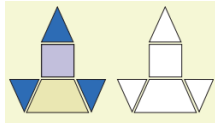
We will develop our understanding of addition and subtraction within ten. Using the language – first, then, now.



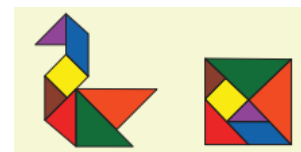
$$9 - 6 = ?$$

First there were 9 counters, then 3 were taken away now there are 9.

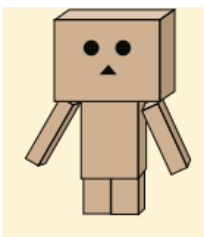
We will learn to manipulate, compose and decompose 2D and 3D shapes for purpose. They will explore properties of shapes and select shapes for different purposes.



Can you make a picture using shapes?
Why did you use a triangle?
Can you draw a template of your picture for a friend to use?



How can you rotate and manipulate the shapes to make different pictures?
Can you copy a friend's picture? Can you guess what their picture is?



What shapes have you used to make your model and why? What shape are the surfaces/face of the 3d shapes?

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 continue to observe our tadpoles, beans and sunflowers growing and will be planting our vegetable seedlings outside.

We will learn about the Minibeasts that live in our outside area and things we can do to care for our environment.

We will learn about maps and create maps of our local area. We plan to go on a local trip to the park to support our map work.

Art and Design

We will be learning about the artist Henri Matisse, creating our own collage artwork and developing our scissor skills further as we cut out interesting shapes. We will learn about the artwork; The Snail by Matisse and create our own Minibeast inspired artwork. We will be making our own 3D sculptures inspired by the work of Matisse.



We will be learning lots of new songs with actions linked to our work on Minibeasts.

Yours faithfully

Miss Churchill and Mrs Frost
Reception teachers