

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Dear Reception parents/carers,

### **Reception Curriculum Letter – Summer (2<sup>nd</sup> half)**

Welcome back, we cannot believe the last half term of Reception is here already. We have lots of fun learning planned to make the children's last half term with us the best yet. Our topic is 'Amazing Africa' where the children will learn all about the continent of Africa through many well-known stories.

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 teacher: 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](mailto:chestnutclass@harefieldinfant.com)

[mapleclass@harefieldinfant.com](mailto: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 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: Changing Me. Where the children be learning all about: Their bodies, naming different body parts, how to stay fit and healthy including hygiene, diet and exercise. How humans change from babies to adults. Children will be taking part in transition activities as they look forward to moving on to year one.

## **Communication and Language.**

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

**Continent, globe, atlas, world, capital, country, river, mountain, distance, compare, climate.**

We will also be learning to retell our key text: Handas Surprise.

We will learn a range of new songs based on our topic such as 'Che Che Kule' a folk song from Ghana. You can listen to and learn the song with your child by following the link below.

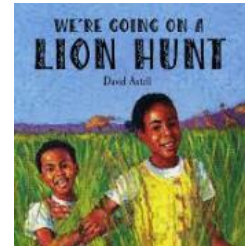
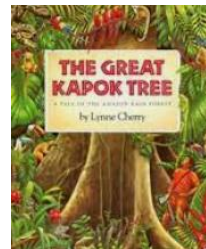
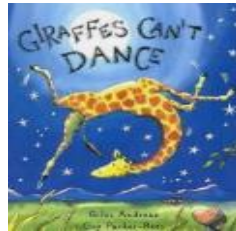
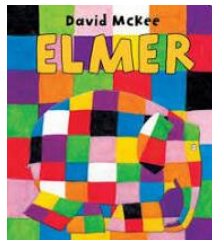
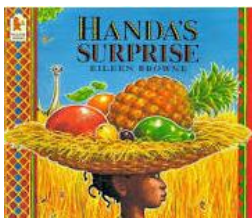
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIGMYsWs6jc>

## **English**

Our main text this half term is 'Handa's Surprise' a journey story about a young girl taking some delicious fruit to her friend. But lots of animals are tempted by the fruits along the way. We will have the opportunity to taste the different fruits in class before learning the story. We will adapt the text to write our own journey stories.

We will also read the story of Elmer before learning all about African elephants when writing fact sheets.

Some books we will read during our topic 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' (two letters one sound). Look out for emails with links to videos of new sounds learnt in school.

Please continue to read with your child every day and ensure books are returned every Friday. Keep going through the sounds in your green/yellow sound book daily too.

**Children should know the 'special Friends'; ff, ll, ss, ck, ch, sh, th, nk, ng, ay, ee, igh, ow, oo and read these sounds in words by the end of reception.**

## **Physical Development**

This half term we will be developing our balance and co-ordination as we learn some new African inspired dances. Children will learn to dance in time to the music and follow a dance routine. In the last weeks of school children will showcase their new dance moves to parents during our end of year fashion show.

### 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.

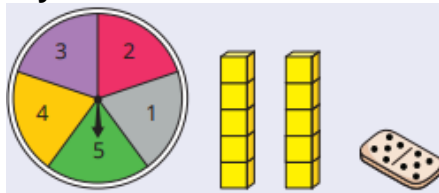
We are also working on using scissors with greater accuracy to cut out more complicated shapes.

We will continue our work on drawing with increasing detail when learning to draw all the different animals linked to our topic.

### Mathematics

This half terms phases for maths are '**Grouping and Sharing**' and '**Visualise, Build and Map**'. During '**Grouping and Sharing**' children will be learning about doubling numbers, sharing and grouping to find halves and quarters using real objects and all about odd and even numbers. We will learn about number patterns and begin to count in twos, five and tens. We will also be developing our spatial reasoning when learning to copy patterns and follow instructions to create models.

**What number did you land on? What is double that number?**

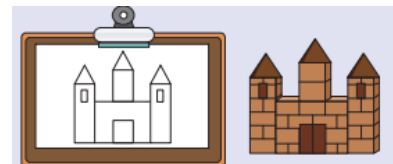


During our phase of '**Visualise, Build and Map**' children will be learning to create complex patterns using everyday objects. Develop our spatial reasoning when learning all about maps, copying models, giving instructions and understanding directions.

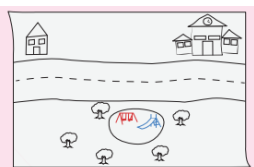
Can you complete the pattern?



Can you use blocks to copy the picture?



Can you draw your own maps?



We will also consolidate our learning on numbers bonds to 10 and counting to 20 and beyond.

### **Understanding the World**

We will be learning all about the continent of Africa, comparing it to where we live. Looking at a school day of a child in Africa and how it differs from our own. Learning about African animals how they differ from UK animals whilst comparing habitats and climates.

We will learn about climate change and how we can all do our bit to help the planet.

During our fruit tasting we will find out about where different fruits come from and how they are grown.

### **Art and Design**

We will be exploring African dance whilst learning some traditional dances during our PE lessons. We will learn about African instruments and learn to follow a beat with drums during our music lessons.

Explore different African instruments during some drumming and singing lessons in class.

We will learn about the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo when creating images using different fruits.



Whilst learning about Elmer we will be exploring African patterns and print when creating a class patchwork quilt using fabric crayons.

### **Skills Builders**

During the last two weeks of the summer term the children will take part in a skills builder project helping them develop; listening, team work, problem solving and creativity skills. Our project will be '**Fabulous Fashion**' where the children will learn all about design. Children will design and create their own African inspired t-shirts and matching accessories. Parents will be invited in to school to our end of year fashion/dance show, more details to follow.

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