

Tuesday 25th February 2025

Dear Reception parents/carers,

Reception Curriculum Letter – Spring (2nd half)

We have another exciting half term of learning planned for all the children in Reception. Our topic is 'Growing'. As we look forward to welcoming Spring the children will have lots of opportunities to observe the world around them. We are so lucky to have a set of eggs arriving in each class to watch chicks hatch and observe them changing over two weeks.

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 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/Monday. These will be changed providing the previous book is returned.

Reading books are sent home every Friday and should be returned the following Friday.

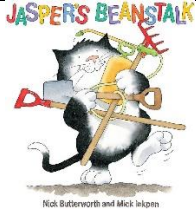
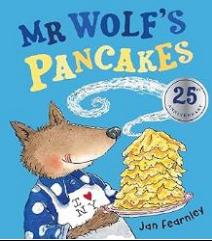
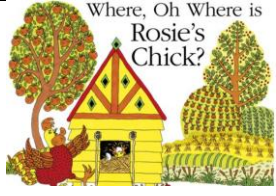
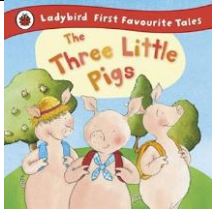
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our JIGSAW theme this half term is: Healthy Me. Where the children be learning all about making healthy choices with food and exercise. How to take care of their bodies. How to be good friends and how to solve problems with others.

At home, you could challenge your child to try new healthy snacks. Try to do 30 minutes of active play or exercise each day, going for a bike or scooter ride, playing football or visiting the park.

Talk about how exercise affects your body and you mind.

English

			
<p>This delightful tale about growing a beanstalk will support our Science and Maths topic. We will be planting our own seeds and watching our beanstalks grow. Children will learn to say the days of the week in order and we will write a daily diary of things we do on each day of the week. For example - On Monday, I go the library. You could support your child by talking through your weekly events.</p>	<p>Poor Mr Wolf wants to make pancakes but finds it difficult. A story containing many well-loved characters. We will learn the nursery rhymes connected to each character. As well as write, lists for ingredients and instructions for making pancakes. We will also be making some yummy pancakes in class. You could support this by following recipes at home to do your own baking.</p>	<p>This book will support our learning on the life cycle of the hen as we welcome some exciting new arrivals to our classrooms. We will learn the story before making changes and writing our own versions of the text. Children will also have many opportunities to write about our own hatchlings.</p>	<p>Your child will no doubt be familiar with this well-loved traditional tale. We will learn the story, act it out before making changes to retell our own versions.</p>
<p>We are beginning to use 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 words using their fingers then pinch each word as they write. Encourage them to use the sounds they hear to write the words independently at this stage words do not need to be spelt correctly.</p>			

Physical Development

PE

This half term we will be exploring movement through a gymnastic unit called Gym in the Jungle. We will be learning to move and balance like different jungle animals. They will be experimenting with moving around, under, through and over small and large equipment. Finally, they will be creating their own gymnastic sequence.

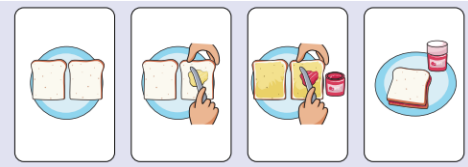
Key Vocabulary

Tiptoes, waddling, walking, running, large steps, skipping, sideways, backwards, crawling, bouncing, sliding, hopping, rolling, shuffling, slithering, jumping, prowling. Over, under, through, on top, around, climb, balance, travel, move, sequence, order.

Mathematics

Length, Height and Time

We will be comparing objects to find out which the longest/shortest, tallest/shortest. We will order objects according to length and height. Before moving on to think about time, ordering days of the week, learning about the months of the year and sequences daily events. We will also be doing some timed activities. How many jumps can you do in one minute?



Can you order a sequence of events? First, next, then, finally?



Which is the longest snake? Can you make a longer one?

Building 9 and 10

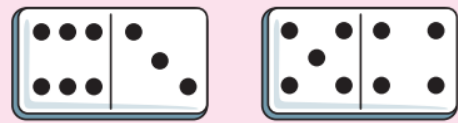
Children will learn all about numbers to 10. Quick recall of one more or less than a number to ten, Number bonds for numbers to 10. A number bond is all the different ways of making a number.

We will learn to recognise groups of 9 & 10 using what we know about subitising for example: "I know it is 10 because I can see 5 and 5. I can see 3 + 3 + 3 so I know it is 9"

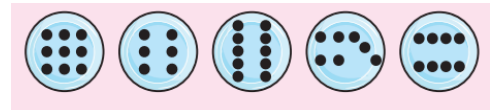
Children will continue to learn their doubles to 10 and find out if a number is odd or even.



How many buttons on the tens frame? What do you notice?
4 blue 5 not blue
1 heart 8 circles



How has 9 been shown on the dominoes?
What other ways do you know making 9?



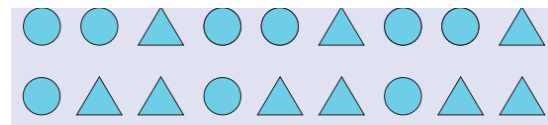
What numbers can you see on the dot plates?
How do you know?
I can see 3 and 3 I know that is 6.

Exploring 3D shapes.

We will be learning to recognise and name 3D shapes. Compare 2D and 3D shapes and learn about the properties or 3D shapes. What shape faces can we see in 3D shapes? How many corners or sides. We will also be learning more about pattern making our own repeating patterns.



What 3D shapes can you see in everyday objects?
Can you go on a shape hunt around your home?
Can you look for shapes when you're out and about?



What pattern can you see here?
What would come next?
Can you make your own patterns using objects from your home?

Science

Watch it Grow	Animal Detectives	Push and Pulls
<p>We will continue to learn about seasonal change as we welcome some signs of spring.</p> <p>Children will be learning all about plants. What they need and how they grow. We will be planting our own bean and sunflower seeds in class.</p> <p>Observing and drawing plants.</p> <p>We will also be learning about sustainability and caring for our planet.</p>	<p>We will be building on our knowledge of animals as we group them according to their simple features.</p> <p>Children will be introduced to vocabulary which will support them to name key features and group animals. For example, birds have two legs, wings and feathers.</p> <p>We will also be learning all about the life cycle of a hen and observing our chicks hatching.</p>	<p>We will be learning about simple forces using the words push and pull.</p> <p>We will explore how different textures of surfaces can affect the force on an object.</p> <p>We will also be exploring how magnets work.</p>
<p>Key vocabulary</p> <p>plant grow root stem beanstalk compost worm soil seed leaf caterpillar chrysalis butterfly petal flower bean shoot wormery pot trowel water</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>animal scales feathers fur feet legs tail wings head beak snake bird pigeon magpie sort mouse frog toad cat dog fox</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>push pull surface rough smooth bumpy ramp roll slide high low down up move start stop magnet attract repel stretch spin</p>

Understanding of the World

We will learn all about Lent and Shrove Tuesday and how Easter is celebrated across the world. During History we will be looking at how we have changed since being a baby and will be asking you to provide baby photos of your child. At home you could share old family photos and discuss what life was like for you or grandparents as a child.

We will also be looking at how transport has changed over time.

Art and Design

We look at the art work 'Sunflowers' by Van Gogh and create our own still life artwork of flowers using a range of different media. We will be learning about using shape and colour for purpose and adding extra detail to our work.

During our push and pulls, science work children will be designing and creating their own moving models of a vehicle.

Our Music unit for this half term is 'Growing' where the children will be learning all about Pitch they will be building up to perform their own musical versions of Jack and the Beanstalk.

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 Robinson
Reception teachers