

## All Creatures Great and Small/ Fun in the Sun



## Hundred-Acre Wood Class Newsletter

### This term...

Summer term- here we go! I can't believe we are already at the final term of Reception. I am hoping that we will be blessed with lots of lovely weather, and be able to make the best use of our outdoor area in the sunshine throughout these final few months.

This half-term our umbrella theme is "All Creatures Great and Small", which is split into three sub-themes of; "In the Vegetable Patch", "Minibeasts" and "Animals".

To kick us off, we will be looking at the story "Oliver's Vegetables" and exploring healthy foods. Hopefully with some green-fingered children, we will investigate how plants, vegetables and fruits grow. Our non-fiction focus will include the life-cycle of a tomato, and we will use this term to start growing items to help brighten up our outdoor classroom. Next, during our "Minibeasts" theme, we will use stories such as "Superworm!" and "What the Ladybird Heard" to support our learning. The children will have plenty of opportunities to get out and about, with forest schools being the perfect opportunity to explore natural habitats and build bug hotels. Our final theme of the half-term is "Animals" where we will look at classic stories such as "Dear Zoo". We are hopeful that by this time our tadpoles will have started turning into frogs!

Next half-term our umbrella theme is "Fun in the Sun", which is split into three sub-themes of "Dinosaurs", "Caring for the World" and "Sun, Sea and Sand". After half-term, we will start with a "Dinosaurs" topic; looking at stories such as "Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs" and "The Girl and the Dinosaur". I know we have some dinosaur experts in the class, so I am really looking forward to this one. We will travel back through time, create our own fossils and investigate our favourite pre-historic creatures. Next up, we will look at texts such as "10 Things I Can Do To Help My World" and "Clean Up" with a focus on recycling throughout our penultimate theme of "Caring for the World". Our final theme of "Sun, Sea and Sand" we will get a chance to explore the oceans and become pirates with books such as "Rainbow Fish" and "The Night Pirates".

In RE, we use the Emmanuel Project scheme of learning. Our unit is incarnation within Christianity. We will be learning and reflecting on the question “What Makes Every Single Person Unique and Precious?”; thinking about what makes us special and how Christians feel loved by God. All of our topics within RE are linked to another faith. This half-term we will briefly look at a Hindu story “Hindus Celebrating at Raksha Bandhan”. After half-term we will focus on creation throughout Christianity, looking at “How Can We Care For Our World?” with a final link to “Tu Be Shevat: The Jewish Birthday of Trees”.

By the end of term, the children will have been working on numbers 10-20, as well as the next set of sounds;

/ar/ ‘Start the car.’

/or/ ‘Corn for the horse.’

/ur/ ‘Purple turtle.’

/ow/ ‘Brown cow.’

/oi/ ‘Noisy boiling water.’

/ear/ ‘Near and dear.’

/air/ ‘Air on hair.’

/ure/ ‘Sure cure.’

/er/ ‘Bigger batter.’

/ay/ ‘May I play?’

/ou/ ‘Shout it out.’

/ie/ ‘Tie your tie.’

/ea/ ‘Time for tea.’

/oy/ ‘Boy with a toy.’

/ir/ ‘Girl in a whirl.’

/ue/ ‘Blue glue.’

## How you can help at home...

- Continue all that you have been doing!
- Encourage your child to use their imagination – to make up story based games with their toys, to pretend, to dress up, to paint and draw etc.
- Encourage your child to play physically – to run, ride a bike, climb, swing, catch etc.
- Encourage your child to read signs, symbols and labels.
- Share books regularly with your child.
- **Help your child to learn to go to the toilet independently, and to wash and dry their hands.**
- Play counting games with your child.
- Encourage your child to experiment with reading and writing their own name.
- Encourage your child to do things independently – e.g. getting dressed, tidying things away etc.
- Show a real interest in your child's learning at school- talk to them about their day.
- Give your child some quiet time to reflect positively on their day.
- Ensure your child has as much sleep as they need – school can be a tiring place!
- Encourage your child to make friends at school – invite other children round to play.
- Continue to talk about school positively and enthusiastically.

The children will be assessed on their phonological awareness over the year and, when ready, given sounds, words and texts to complement their reading ability. This should be read as independently as possible, but should be read out loud to an adult who is able to support *if* necessary. These should be practiced **at least** twice, once for sound/ word recognition and once for comprehension.

Reading is of vital importance, if your child is confident enough to begin reading simple stories then please support and encourage this as regularly as possible both with school books and home books.

There are still so many benefits to sharing stories; read **to** your child, whenever and wherever you can. I am always happy for children to borrow books from school, as long as they are taken good care of. Start thinking about how to incorporate reading into your everyday life; reading road signs, cooking instructions, shopping lists or even subtitles on their favourite TV show.

## Red Words

I am so grateful to all of your support at home with phonics and reading, please keep up all that you are doing – it really does make such a difference. Some parents/carers were asking if you could have a list of the “red words” (these are words that cannot be sounded out, and must be recognised at sight). At school, we use a technique called say-spell-say. This is where the child will say the word, then spell it out using letter names, finally saying the word again, for example; **the- T H E- the**.

Below is a list of the red words that you may find useful. This is not by any means an expectation of something to do outside of school, but I know that a lot of you were eager to have them to practice at home.

I	we	said
no	me	have
the	be	love
to	you	loves
go	your	so
into	are	do
put	was	some
puts	all	come
he	they	one
she	my	were

## Remember...

Our PE day has now changed to **Wednesday**. Please ensure PE kits are brought into school for the children to change into. All items should be clearly named.

Water bottles need to be taken home daily for cleaning and refilling. This should be filled with **water** only please. This is particularly important during these summer months.

For those hotter days, please ensure that your child has a hat and is wearing sun-cream.

A gentle reminder that toys are not permitted in school.

**Thank you for your continued support.**