

Curriculum Newsletter - Spring term 1 - Out & About



Dear Reception Parents

January 2026

We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas break and that the children are refreshed! The topic this half term is '**Out & About**' and all seven areas of the Foundation Years curriculum will be developed through this.

Reading books are changed on Monday and Friday. Please can you make sure you are logging their reading in their reading record books; this can include any sounds they found tricky. Please also make sure you are support children with the tricky words and recognising capital letters.

P.E. is continuing on **Thursday** so please make sure **kits are returned for the first week.**

Homework will be sent home on a **Friday** and **returned every Friday.** This term it will be looking at digraphs and number sentences.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW YOU CAN HELP:-

Can your child please bring in: (if you no longer need them!)

- Old material, shells
- Old picnic equipment
- > small old suitcases
- >> Little deck chairs, old parasol with base

Remember to keep adding your child's achievements, they are very useful for me to add to your child's profile. You can email me with any exciting achievements, write them in their reading diary or put them on the wowers. Any questions just ask Mrs Newman or Mrs Deeley.

Talking

- Sing songs & rhymes from memory
- Take turns in conversation at home
- Talk about going on holidays
- Use geographical vocabulary to describe features
- Talk about where we live e.g. solihull, England, UK
- Recall special events that have happened & sequence e.g. wedding, birthday, Christmas, etc

Stories

- Discuss choice of bedtime stories
- Discuss openings, endings, settings and action stories with your child
- Identify the morals of stories – what is right or wrong and why
- Looking at books written by one author
- Look at non fiction books about holidays

Out & About

- Play games involving kicking, running, throwing and catching
- Discuss position of objects outside
- Look for patterns in the environment
- Recognise numbers whilst out e.g. door numbers, road signs.
- Finding one more/less

In the Kitchen

- Count anything, eg beans, vegetables and counting on from a number.
- Follow verbal instructions to cook
- Talk about safety when cooking and safe use of equipment

Making

- Make a holiday collage
- Use things found outside to create pictures
- Mix paint colours together

These are some of the activities which will be taking place during school lessons

Understanding the World

- Know the seasons and months of the year and days of the week
- Examine objects and living things to find out more about them and describe characteristics
- Observe and discuss different habitats
- Use google maps
- Find out about and identify the uses of everyday technology in the environment
- Discussions of home life, religion and routines
- Identify vehicles and modes of transport in contrasting localities
- Use appropriate geographical vocabulary
- Gain an awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others
- Explore seaside materials
- Go on a walk in the environment and look at different houses and vehicles on the road.

Physical Development

- Recognise changes in our bodies after exercise
- Be aware of those people who can help us keep safe and healthy
- What do we do to be healthy including keep clean and sleep.
- Throwing, catching, aiming and hitting small equipment
- Begin to link movement together in short phrases
- Use a wide range of tools safely and with increased accuracy e.g. scissors, needle, etc

Expressive Arts & Design

- Match movements to music from their own ideas
- Recognise how sounds can be changed
- Mix a wide range of colours
- Can record constructions through drawing
- Role play – campsite & travel agents
- Use imagination in art, design, music, dance, role play
- Build & construct with a wide range of objects



Mathematical Development

- Compare 2 numbers up to 20 and say which is more /less / greater / smaller
- Use + and – up to 20 and begin to write number sentences.
- Numberbonds to 10
- Name and discuss the properties of 3D and 2D shapes
- Use language to describe position
- Compare 3 or more quantities by weight / capacity / size / length
- Understanding doubles to 10

Personal & Social Development

- Develop their own learning characteristics
- Able to praise others
- Understand what is right / wrong and why
- Understand the feeling of loss
- Consider the consequences of their words and actions
- How emotions may cause people to behave in different ways
- Talk about how we are different, what is special about some other people

Communication Language Development

- Awareness of long vowel sounds, ue, ow, oa, igh, ar, ure, or
- Listening with increased attention
- Speaking with increased detail
- Telling and understanding jokes
- Talk about faraway places to visit

Literacy

- Reading books such as Percy the Park Keeper, writing imaginary stories e.g. planet Zog for a holiday
- Talk confidently about what they have read, characters in stories, sequencing events, logically using story openings, actions and endings
- Write for a variety of purposes, e.g. postcards, tickets, lists, letters
- Begin to use full stops and capital letters when writing sentences.
- Use information texts to find answers to simple questions
- Retell stories in the correct order
- Read and write tricky words.