

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Term Five

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed the Spring break. We can't believe we are now two-thirds of the way through the school year – time flies when you're having fun!

Our newsletters aim to provide you with a termly overview of what we will be teaching in school and give you a few tips on how you can reinforce learning at home. Please also remember to check our Foundation Stage noticeboard, located on Cygnet's window, as well as our school website for more news and information.

The Story Machine

This term, we will be reading "The Story Machine" by Tom McLaughlin. In this story, a boy named Elliot finds an old typewriter in the loft, which becomes his "story machine". We will start the term off looking at machines from the past, supported by a visit from the Guildhall museum which will allow the children to explore old inventions.

We will be taking part in lots of storytelling activities, creating our own stories using our imagination and exploring characters and settings.

Please continue sharing stories with your child – you could stop the story half way through and make up your own ending, invent your own characters, or even read the last page and decide what might have happened before that.



Maths

This term, we will be continuing to work on our number recognition to 20 and we'll also be learning to write the numbers.

We are continuing to add by counting all the objects to find the total, and also by counting on from the larger group of objects. We have been exploring subtraction and have even been making our own predictions for what the answer could be, using our growing sense of number.

Please continue to practise counting to 20 and beyond with your child at home (saying the teen numbers in order can be tricky) forwards and backwards, practise reading numbers up to 20, and recall what number comes before and after each number.

Literacy

We will be continuing to use our knowledge of letter sounds and key words in our writing to write for a range of purposes (labels, lists, fact files and stories). If the opportunity arises, please allow your child to write for a purpose at home (such as the shopping list!) using their phonics to have a go at sounding-out the words – the words do not have to be spelt correctly! Our daily handwriting sessions support the children in developing the fine motor skills needed to gain an effective pencil grip and form letters correctly.

Phonics

The children have lots to feel proud of already! All children have been grouped so that they can learn at a pace appropriate for them.

By the end of the year, most children are expected to be able to read simple sentences and gain meaning from them. Whilst most words can be "sounded-out", there are many which can't, therefore need to be read on sight from memory. Please continue to practise the key words on your child's reading record so that they build up their sight vocabulary quicker, which will help them gain understanding from the sentences they are reading.

Please see our website for phonics resources.

General Notices

As we head further into spring, a raincoat will need to be brought in every day to ensure your child is fully prepared for all weathers. You are welcome to keep one at school, along with a pair of wellies if you wish. Please also provide your child with a sun hat.

The children will no longer be using plimsolls as indoor shoes – instead, they will wear their school shoes all day at school. Plimsolls will be kept in their PE bags.

Please ensure your child brings their yellow Reading Record book to school with them every day so we can see how they are reading at home. We will change their scheme reader book twice a week, allowing your child the opportunity to revisit their book. As we only have a certain number of these books, please remember to keep the book in your child's book bag so that it can be given to another child later in the week.

Your child will take part in at least one group read each week at school. We aim to read with every child 1:1 twice a term.

PE will usually take place on Fridays for the whole year group. Please provide your child with a named PE kit that they can keep on their peg for the term. Their PE kit can consist of any colour top with shorts. We take part in physical activities throughout each day, so to ensure your child's safety, we advise that you remove earrings for school every day.

A polite reminder that we are a **nut-free school**. We have severe allergies in school, therefore please keep this in mind when organising healthy packed lunches/snacks for your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please help your child understand the meaning of these words and say them in a sentence:

character
machine
beginning/middle/end
fiction/non-fiction
days of the week
old/new
past
seasons
months of the year

Dates for your diary:

20.4.18 – Guildhall Museum workshop in school (looking at machines from the past)

7.5.18 – May Bank Holiday

21.6.18 - School trip to Godstone Farm (information to follow)

25.5.18 – Last day of Term 5

5.6.18 – First day of Term 6 (Staff development day on the 4th)

We have loved hearing about your child's wow moments! Remember to write a WOW for our Wow Window so we can celebrate them in school. You are able to send in photos for your wow moments should you wish to at:

parkwoodfoundationstage@gmail.com

