

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Term Four

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed the half term break. We're looking forward to catching up with you this week to celebrate your child's achievements at school so far. 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.

Blue Penguin

The picture book we will be focusing on this term is "Blue Penguin", a story about friendship and kindness. We have started off the term learning about Antarctica – our recent experiences of snow have helped with this! Our Curiosity Corner in the classroom, where we can take part in experiments with ice, is very popular with the children.

We will also be having a sports-themed week, on the week beginning 19th March, to coincide with Sports Relief Day on Friday 23rd March. As a year group, we will be tallying up miles we run on the school grounds over that week and looking to see which countries are that far away!

If your child or a family member takes part in a sport, we invite you to bring in any photos, certificates or medals, for us to celebrate in school.

Maths

This term, we will be "exploding numbers" to 10 into different parts (for example, 8 could be broken up into a 5 and a 3, a 4 and a 4 etc).

We are also learning to read and count numbers up to 20, and find out one more and one less by counting on or back from that number. We can use this method of counting on and back to find 2, 3 or 4 more/less than a number.

Please practise counting to 20 with your child (saying the teen numbers in order can be tricky) and practise reading numbers up to 20.

Literacy

The children are gaining a good understanding of what a sentence is and they are using their developing vocabulary to come up with their own fantastic ideas!

We will be continuing to use our knowledge of letter sounds in our writing to write for a range of purposes (labels, lists, letters and postcards). 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 "Busy Fingers" session supports the children in developing the fine motor skills needed to gain an effective pencil grip and form letters.

Phonics

The children have lots to feel proud of already! All children have now 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 when they move on to reading sentences.

Please see our website for phonics resources.

www.ruthmiskin.com/en/read-write-inc-programmes

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs>

General Notices

The Talking Homework you have completed with your child has been fantastic – the children are so enthusiastic when sharing it with their friends and it has increased their understanding and vocabulary of the topics we are exploring. Thank you for these contributions.

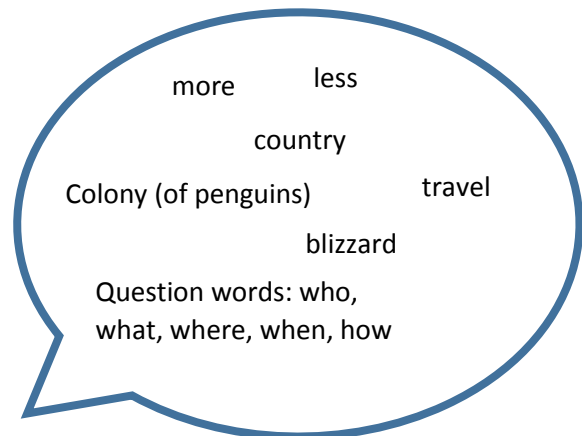
As we head into spring (hopefully!), a raincoat will need to be brought in every day to ensure your child is fully prepared for all weathers. You are welcome to keep one at school, along with a pair of wellies if you wish. Thank you.

Please ensure your child brings their yellow Reading Record book to school with them every day so that we can record your child's reading. Thank you.

PE will 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:



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