

SPRING TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 3

Half Term Approaching

We have had a really busy half term at school and I have just spent the last two weeks in the classrooms looking at the quality of teaching and learning at the school. It is extremely heartening to observe inspirational teachers and teaching assistants working with your children and to see how much progress they are making. I hope you enjoy reading our curriculum updates to see what the children have been doing and have also found the weekly learning logs useful. We look forward to seeing you at our parent evenings on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February when you can find out in more detail how your children are getting on. The lists for these will go up outside the classrooms on Thursday 11 February, at 3:00 p.m. We would also appreciate any volunteers to run the crèche during the sessions so that parents who cannot find child care can come along. If you have a CRB Enhanced Disclosure, which was applied for through the school, and think you could help with this even for a short time, please contact the school office.

Wellies and waterproofs

We pride ourselves at Hazel Wood on our exciting curriculum which gives the children the chance to learn outside as well as within the building. Could you please ensure your child has wellies and waterproofs in school each day as we use our outside area whatever the weather. If you have any problems please see your child's teacher.

Special Lunches

We are planning to offer special Mother's Day lunches for Mothers and Grandmothers on the following dates; Wednesday 3, Thursday 4, Friday 5, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March. A letter will be sent home shortly with full details. Fathers and Grandfathers will get the chance to come in later in the year!

Lunchboxes

Water is always available for the children to drink at lunchtimes so you do not need to include another drink in their lunch boxes.

Please remember children are not allowed to bring chocolates or sweets in their lunchboxes as we want to promote healthy lifestyles as much as possible.

DVDs

During wet lunch times we still try to get outside as much as possible. However, sometimes the weather defeats us. The children have a variety of activities they can do in the classrooms ranging from dressing up, construction and drawing or reading books. Sometimes they also enjoy watching a DVD. If you have any unwanted U-rated DVDs at home please consider donating them to the school for the children to watch during wet lunchtimes when appropriate.

Ooops!

Got some children's public library books at home that you've forgotten about?

Don't worry - just take them back to your nearest library - there's no charge!

www.hants.gov.uk/library

Curriculum Updates

Year R

We started this half term with a whole-school 'Fairytale' topic and Year R focussed specifically on The Gingerbread Man. This was a particularly successful theme and the children are still referring back to this in their self-initiated play. It had huge scope for helping to develop the children's communication, language and literacy skills: understanding and using the elements of a story and sequencing events. The children were brilliant at re-telling the tale, and have developed their writing further by incorporating the new sounds we have learnt as well as practising sounding out the words they want to write.

During the first topic, we had the chance to prepare for the second part of Spring Term 1: Arctic / Snow and Ice! The real snow at our school and the photos taken during the first heavy snowfall meant that the children had already shared questions and ideas in preparation for this topic. In Art we have made observational drawings of animals from cold climates, and then used a range of media to create our final piece. In PE we will be thinking of ways we can jump and land safely. We have been playing games which involve working as a team. We have been giving each other compliments in our PATHs programme, as well as remembering our rights, respect and responsibilities at school.

In Literacy we have been continuing to use the Ruth Miskin's phonics scheme. Several parents have commented upon to the sounds their children can now recognise independently at home, which is very satisfying to hear. The children are:

- Revising the sounds m, a, s, d, t, I, n, p, g, o, c, k.
- And learning to read and say the *pure* sounds: u, b, f, e, l, h, sh, r, j, v, y, w, th, z, ch

We are still sticking in your child's Reading Diary the sounds they are covering or revising. At this point can we ask that the diaries remain in your child's book bag all week. The slips we stick in are otherwise placed loosely in the bag, which is not ideal for you as they are then more easily lost.

The children's emergent writing is developing well. Your child may be more comfortable now to write letter sounds, and some may also be writing the initial sounds of words they are attempting to write.

We have been writing for different purposes:

- Making a shopping list in the role play
- Taking phone messages
- Writing a favourite part of a story
- Writing a card
- Drawing a diagram in the construction area and adding labels to show what they have done.

In Numeracy we are still recognising and ordering numbers 1-10, alongside

- Relating addition to combining two groups,
- Relating subtraction to taking away.

Our environmental maths this half term will involve:

- Describing shapes in simple models, pictures and patterns,
- Sorting objects by length, colour, shape, weight etc.
- Experimenting with the measuring concepts of length and weight.

In preparation for future topics and improving the provision outdoors, may we request resources from you. Anything and everything can be put to use in an infant school! We are very grateful for the junk modelling resources several of you send in, and always welcome this, as well as larger items such as pipes, guttering, bricks and logs.

Year 1

In Year One, we began the New Year with the topic 'Fairytale'. All other aspects of the curriculum were organised within the topic so that the children's learning was really relevant and exciting.

Inspired by 'Cinderella', in DT we made shoes and in science we have explored different fabrics that would be suitable to make a shoe to wear to a ball. To complete the topic, the children planned and organised a ball where they enjoyed dressing in their party clothes and performed the dance that they have been learning in PE lessons.

In Literacy we have continued to practise and reinforce handwriting skills and the children have been learning new phonemes for reading and spelling that are appropriate to their level of understanding. We read a selection of traditional tales and helped the children to identify the main events and sequence them in chronological order. Through developing story language, we have enabled the children to retell a familiar traditional story and to write their own version of a traditional story, using a series of complete sentences. Children have also discussed the appearance, behaviour, characteristics and goals of characters and written profiles of characters using evidence from the text.

In Numeracy we have been:

- Solving problems involving counting, adding, subtracting, doubling or halving in the context of numbers, measures or money, for example to 'pay' and 'give change'
- Counting reliably at least 20 objects, recognising that when rearranged the number of objects stays the same and estimating a number of objects that can be checked by counting
- Comparing and ordering numbers and learning how to use the equals (=) sign Reading and writing numerals from 0 to 20, then beyond and using a knowledge of place value to position these numbers on a number track and number line
- Saying the number that is 1 more or less than any given number, and 10 more or less for multiples of 10
- Relating addition to counting on by recognising that addition can be done in any order and using practical and informal written methods to support the addition of a one-digit number or a multiple of 10 to a one-digit or two-digit number
- Understanding subtraction as 'take away' or finding a 'difference' by counting up and using practical and informal written methods to support the subtraction of a one-digit number from a one-digit or two-digit number and a multiple of 10 from a two-digit number
- Using the vocabulary related to addition and subtraction and symbols to describe and record addition and subtraction number sentences

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about Fairytale and focussing on the story of 'Cinderella'. We looked at different versions of the Cinderella story and compared similarities and differences. We learned how to re-tell the story and then created our own version using a story map.

The children have designed and created a shoe and we encouraged them to think about how to join different materials together. The children have learned how to use sewing as a joining technique. In music the children have begun learning how to play the recorder.

During the topic of Cinderella the children have discussed what is fair and unfair in the Cinderella story and have begun to explain their opinions. The children have been learning simple dance routines and enjoyed displaying their dances during the Princes Ball.

In Literacy we have been

- planning and writing a story based on 'Cinderella'
- spelling exciting words and phrases to add detail to our writing such as suddenly, to his amazement,
- using speech marks when adding dialogue to our story
- remembering to put a full stop at the end of a sentence

In Numeracy we have been

- using practical resources to begin to understand multiplication and division
- beginning to use pictorial methods of recording, to work out an answer to a multiplication and division problem
- counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10
- reading the time to the hour, half past the hour and quarter to and past the hour

There will be further news of what everyone will be doing after half term shortly.

Play Equipment

The playground equipment is available for the school children to use during school hours. We are unable to accept any responsibility for children who use the play equipment beyond the end of the school day.

Message from your Police Community Support Officer – Lisa Palmer

Dear Resident,

As part of The Policing Pledge we want to provide monthly updates on what action we and our partners are taking to make neighbourhoods safer and information on how the force is performing. We currently provide monthly Beat Reports to several residents in the Totton area. If you wish to receive information via email please email your name, address and contact telephone number to lisa.palmer@hampshire.pnn.police.uk If you would rather not give us your information then our monthly beat reports will be available from: Sweet Thoughts, Eling Lane, The Heritage Centre Café, Lexby Road/Eling Lane, and Harveys, Jacobs Gutter Lane.

Photographs

We continue to display our beautiful photographs showing different aspects of learning at Hazel Wood. These are on display in the entrance hall and, if your child is in one, you are welcome to buy it for £5 once the display is changed. Please contact the school office if you are would like to make a purchase.

World Book Day – Thursday 4 March

To celebrate World Book Day this year, we will be dedicating the whole day to celebrating books and reading. There will also be an opportunity for the children to dress as their favourite **book** character; film and television characters are not appropriate. We would love the children to bring their favourite book into school on the day to share with friends. If you would like to be involved in any reading or book related activities on the day, please contact Libby Wyatt, through the school office, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Cathy Davies

Cathy Davies
Headteacher