

Spring 2016

# Foundation Stage Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all the best for the New Year. All the staff would like to thank you for all the Christmas cards and presents. We really appreciate your generosity. Last term was a very enjoyable time and we were delighted to see how well the children settled and progressed. We hope you will agree that our autumn topic 'Are we nearly there yet?' was a huge success. The children clearly thoroughly enjoyed the topic and threw themselves into learning with such enthusiasm across all areas of learning. Hopefully, this term will be as successful as the last one.

Our topic for this term is 'Let it Grow' and as with our previous work in the Reception class, the topic will continue to involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop the children's learning. Below is a summary of some of the activities the children will take part in.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- \* Growing and Changing
- \* Valuing difference
- \* Discussions about the needs of animals and what we need to do to keep safe around animals

## Communication and Language

- \* Share stories about farms and farmers
- \* Extend vocabulary, exploring the meaning of new words
- \* Role-Play Area: Farm and Farm Shop

## Physical Development

- \* Movement
- \* Sense of space
- \* Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed

## Literacy

- \* Look at fiction and non-fiction books about farms - 'Wibbly Pig', 'Farmer Duck', *Where does milk come from?* *Where does wool come from?*
- \* Segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together
- \* Write labels, captions and simple sentences

## Mathematics

- \* Compare and write numbers
- \* Add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer
- \* Familiarisation with 2D shapes and the introduction of 3D shapes
- \* Measure - weight and capacity

## Understanding the World

- \* Weather and seasonal changes
- \* Farming and farm animals around the world
- \* Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change
- \* Chinese New Year
- \* Bible stories - Easter, Parable of the Lost Sheep

## Expressive Arts and Design

- \* Capture experiences and responses with a range of media, e.g. animal prints and patterns, wooden spoon scarecrows, printing with fruit and vegetables, making bread, Chinese New Year dragon dance and songs, etc.

The children will have daily use of laptops and we will be focusing on moving and clicking the mouse with speed and accuracy. Additionally, the use of iPads will be used in lessons to enhance **all** areas of learning.

The children will continue to participate in PE sessions on a Monday and Tuesday. We recommend that your child brings in their kit at the start of term and that it remains in school until half-term. This will ensure your child always has the necessary PE clothes. Our

sessions will take place in the hall, so no footwear is required. Please could we take this opportunity to ask you to check that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled (even socks). Welly Wednesday has proved a great success and the children are thoroughly enjoying the tasks that accompany these walks. Now that the children are familiar with the Welly Wednesday rules, we are intending to extend our walks to include the surrounding area. This will include Wayside Drive and the Jones Estate. Separate consent is not required as we have already obtained your completed Form D. This term the activities will be centred on our 'Let it Grow' topic and there are so many opportunities to learn outdoors. As part of our Welly Wednesday activities we are planning an egg box treasure hunt (see separate letter for further details) as well as making dens for different farm animals - creating 3D shapes from sticks. Please ensure your child's wellies are at the ready every Wednesday.

Each week the children will take part in a Guided Reading session. The children work together in small groups and work on a text with a member of staff for around a twenty minute period. Within this time, the children are taught new strategies to help them read the text, discuss the context of the story and use it to answer questions prompting further discussion and activities. We will also be focusing on recognising the following 'tricky words':- the, to, I, go, no, so please encourage your child to find these words when sharing books. Additionally, each week we will strive to hear all children read individually when their reading books and word box will be changed. There is no set day when books will be changed so please could we ask you to ensure that your child brings in their book bag daily, containing their reading book, word box and reading record. Thank you for continuing to read with your child at home. Please do make a note in your child's reading record book, as it is helpful for us to monitor your child's progress. At this stage it is the most important support you can give to your child.

Watch out for exciting work and activities linked to World Book Day, Science Week, Mothers' Day and other events linked to our 'Let it Grow' topic. Dates announced shortly.

Class Dojo is up and running and the children love getting points as rewards throughout the day. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to receive notifications about your children's successes in school. The winning children in the week bring home the Dojo Buddy with instructions on what to do. The children are delighted with this and are looking forward to their turn to bring home the Dojo Buddy.

Good communication is important for all adults to appreciate the needs of individual children and to alleviate concerns at an early stage. Please do not hesitate to contact us and will be more than happy to discuss any matters concerning your child.

Finally, please could we just remind you to let us know if your child will be collected from school by someone different and please ensure your child is equipped with a coat for use at playtime (with their name in it please!). Just a reminder that school does begin at 8:50am and punctuality would be much appreciated to ensure a smooth start to the day for all the children.

NB - Have you put your child's name on each item of clothing?

Thank you for your support and co-operation,  
Miss Jenkins, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Cunha