

Homework

We encourage all children to read to you **every day** at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record, or on Tapestry, and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. A weekly challenge will be posted on Tapestry each Friday for you to complete together at home over that weekend and through the week.

Expectations in Year R

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The way in which we learn and our motivation is hugely important. In Class R we focus on these characteristics using our 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'. Each characteristic has an animal associated with it and so the children strive to become ... Proud Peacocks, Persevering Parrots, Go for It Gorillas, Creative Chameleons, Choosing Chimps and Slinky Linky Snakes!

Class rewards

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. A filled sticker chart means the children choose a small gift from our prize box! Each week a child will be selected to be the star of the week and will be celebrated in our whole school assembly on a Friday.

Our hopes for the children

At the beginning of the year we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this first half of the spring term in Class R we will work on these following things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- ◆ Learn a poem to be performed in front of an audience.
- ◆ Benefit from buddying up with a Year 5 child for reading on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Follow a simple recipe.
- ◆ Have the opportunity to bring balance bikes, bikes and scooters to school.
- ◆ DEAR (Drop Everything and Read sessions): The chance to realise how important and special sharing a fabulous story can be. This half term we will read 'The Faraway Tree' by Enid Blyton.
- ◆ Superhero day; To remind us that we are all amazing and we can achieve anything we put our minds to!

Remember to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns. With very best wishes,

Mrs A Warren



Cowrie Class - Reception

Spring Term 1

Teacher: Mrs A Warren

Teaching Assistant: Mrs L Hutley



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the spring term in Cowrie Class! This booklet will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this half term, although some things may change as we go along. Our main topic for this half-term is called 'Big Adventures with Little Feet' and the main intention of this topic is to begin to explore both the world around us and further afield. We want to provide the children with the chance to experience awe and wonder, to find out about Earth and space, to compare and contrast a range of places with where they live and to develop the want to protect our planet. We also want the children to be excited about having adventures and to know that even though their feet may be small (right now), their dreams can always be big!

Literacy and Communication & Language

Within Literacy we work on a range of skills including; Listening, Vocabulary, Questioning, Sentence and Sentence Building, Story-telling, Non-fiction texts and Phonics. We will share a range of texts to support our themes on Winter, Earth, Space and Looking after our planet. We will also learn a poem for recital to an audience: New Nursery Rhyme by Colin West and The Eagle by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The children will also continue to benefit from:

- * Individual reading to an adult
- * Daily phonics lessons
- * Handwriting practice (initially focusing on the correct posture and pencil grip)
- * Regular library visits to choose a new library book.
- * Texts to support all areas and activities within the learning environment
- * Small group guided reading sessions 3 x per week

Mathematics

In maths the children will be introduced to zero and continue to develop their understanding of comparing numbers. We will use a range of representation to support the idea that one quantity can be more than, the same as or fewer than another quantity. We will further develop the understanding that all numbers are made up of smaller numbers (composition of numbers to 5) and the children will always be encouraged to subitise (instantly recognise small quantities without counting).

The children will make direct comparisons between the weight of items but holding them to feel which one is the heaviest and then using balance scales to check. We will explore the common misconception that bigger items are always heavier.

We will also build on our understanding of capacity by using a range of containers to explore half full, full, nearly full, nearly empty.

We will then move on to investigating the composition of the numbers 6,7 and 8 plus work on our addition and subtraction skills by combining groups and taking away. We will also introduce the Part-Whole Model to help us with our understanding of calculations.

Finally we will explore length, height and time (now, before, later, soon, after, then, next and the days of the week).

We will use many texts to support our learning and here are some of them:

- ◆ Six Dinner Sid – Inga Moore
- ◆ Kipper's Toybox – Mick Inkpen
- ◆ Jasper's Beanstalk – Nick Butterworth
- ◆ What the Ladybird Heard – Julia Donaldson
- ◆ Mr Wolf's Week – Colin Hawkins
- ◆ The Hueys in None the number – Oliver Jeffers

Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw

This term our theme is called 'Dreams and Goals' and we will be learning about how to persevere when facing challenges. We will set achievable goals for ourselves and work towards them, not giving up until we reach them and encouraging each other along the way. We will think about what we might like to do when we grow up and learn about the amazing Mae Jemison who chased her dreams and believed in herself. Role models like this will help us to see that we can achieve anything we want to in life (with a little bit of hard work and determination). Finally we will recognise what it feels like to be proud of ourselves and of each other.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop the children's fine motor control and coordination. We will develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination, and agility through activities that use our body weight to push and pull. We will also develop our confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities involving a ball.

Through small group sessions we will focus on developing our handwriting so that it starts to become fast, accurate and efficient.

Understanding the World

As part of our work on comprehending the world around us we will focus on:

- ◆ Family - The children will be encouraged to talk about their weekend news plus things they have celebrated together over the Christmas holidays.
- ◆ The Past - The children will have the opportunity to learn about famous people from the past who have and can influence our learning and our lives (e.g. Mae Jemison, Neil Armstrong, Vincent Van Gogh).
- ◆ Geography - We will continue to learn about our local area and use it within our learning. We will learn about our planet and a little about space too. We will begin to understand that the world and the universe are huge and waiting to be explored.
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - The children are always encouraged to explore every activity with their senses. What does it feel like? What can you see? What can you smell? What can you hear?
- ◆ People - As always we will learn about different people and about each other. We continue to develop understanding and respect for all people at all times.
- ◆ Our RE work this half term will focus on Christianity and why the word 'God' is so important to Christians. This will lead us to learn about the Bible story of Creation and link well to our work on the world and how we should look after it.
- ◆ In our computing work we will use digital images and instructions to help us create winter scarf patterns, bird feeders and igloos!
- ◆ Our outdoor learning sessions will be supported through the use of the following texts: Stanley's Sticks by Neal Layton, Tom's Tree by Gillian Shields, Into the Forest by Anthony Browne, Follow my Leader by Emma Chichester Clark, We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and The Foggy Foggy Forest by Nick Sharratt.

Expressive Arts & Design

As part of our work in this area of development we will focus on:

- ◆ Art and Creativity - We will find out about the techniques used by a different artist (Vincent Van Gogh) and compare it to the styles of art that we have already encountered by Mondrian and Kandinsky. In particular we will explore the piece of artwork 'Starry Night' and try out the different painting techniques used to create it.
- ◆ Music - We will listen to and use The Planets by Holst for our music this half term and take part in a range of activities to explore spikey and smooth sounds, learn a new song and sing it in different styles, play simple patterns on the drum, and repeat patterns back, write new lyrics to a familiar tune, make your own space map with lots of different sounds and play some classroom instruments.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - The children are immersed in a language-rich environment where during play they are encouraged to talk, express their feelings and respond to a range of stories.