

14th November 2022

Dear families,

The weather is growing colder and darker, and the leaves have begun to fall but we are so excited to carry on with some great learning as always.

This term we will be learning around the theme of **Infinity and Beyond!** Our theme will explore space, travel and transportation. We will imagine and recreate what it would be like in space and on the moon. We will share places we have travelled to, where we would like to go, and how we could travel there.

During our Understanding the World sessions and in our provision, the children will learn all about celebrations this half term like Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will continue to learn that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.

This term we will be reading the story, 'Whatever Next' and 'Astro Girl.' The children will also be learning about space. We will set out on a fun adventure through the galaxy and visit the moon with our belongings – so watch this space!

We will also be reading 'The Three Little Pigs.' We will be exploring what happens in the story, where the story takes place and the different characters. We explore the themes in Three Little Pigs, such as working hard and how not taking short cuts pays off. We will investigate different materials for building and compare them to determine which would make the best house in today's world versus the past. We will do this by reading the story, dressing up as the characters and acting them out, and recreating the stories through drawings.

Changing Weather

As the weather has begun to change for the colder and wetter, we ask that the children come to school in appropriate clothing to ensure that they are able to continue learning outside. Please ensure that your child has a coat that they are able to put on independently and have begun to learn to do up themselves.

Phonics

Phonics teaching is a big focus and we will be supporting your children to become great readers and writers. The children will be bringing some letter formation and words to read and practice at home. They have been given a Phonics Folder to keep their formation sheets and reading words. **Please make sure your child brings their Phonics Folder to school every day.**

Every child is on their own journey with reading and some children are nearly ready to take Phonics books home. Remember that even if your child does not have a book, they can easily be supported at home by reading signs and symbols in the environment. For example, when walking around at home you could play "I-spy" with the first sound of the word. You can also do a lot of oral blending of words, for instance, 'Can you find a p-e-n?'. Sing the blending machine song and ask your child to teach you the song.

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The next stage is to find these sounds written in the environment. Children often notice signs and symbols in the environment, so next time you go for a walk, ask if they can identify supermarket names or read familiar labels.

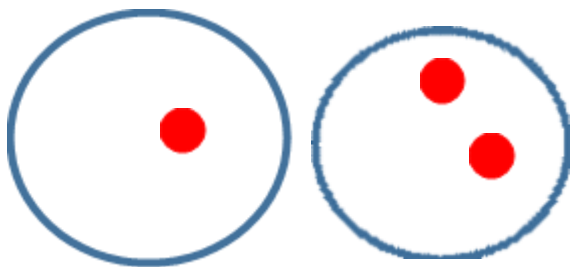
Maths

In addition to this cross-curricular learning, we will start exploring numbers in further depth by counting amounts, finding one more and applying our knowledge through problem-solving. We enjoy solving a good problem!

Every week we will have a 'number of the week'. The children will learn all about the number and at the end of the week they will solve a problem independently.

As we start to delve deeper into learning about numbers, encourage your children to play counting games. For example, line up 3 objects and ask how many different ways can you make 3?

Show off your counting fingers, touch and count.



Ask questions and help your child by talking to them about what they notice. Make it fun and remember you can use any objects to count.

"0 + 3 = 3,
1 + 2 = 3,
swap it around,
2 + 1 = 3,
3 + 0 = 3."

Library Books and Reading

'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go' — Dr. Seuss

One of the most important things you can do with your child is to **Read, read, read!** Please take 10 minutes to read with them every night. This is so important for your child – it will help to develop their communication, language and concentration skills, and fosters curiosity and creativity.

The children will be borrowing a book from the library every Tuesday. Please make sure your child has their book folder with them. The children will change their books every Tuesday. So please make sure that you return the book to the class by Monday.

Here are important days of our week:

Tuesday – We will encourage all of the children to borrow a book from our school Library. Please make sure your child has a book bag or a bag with them.

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Wednesday – Every Wednesday we will cook something as a class.

Friday – Celebration assembly where we celebrate what has happened in the Early Years. Your child will get a chance to be ‘star of the week’ and get a certificate. They will also get a sticker if they come to school every day. Also, one child will take Summer or Winter home for the weekend.

School Trips

After further conversations with the Ice-Skating organisation, we have taken the decision to change our next class trip from ice skating to a story telling experience at the Stratford Discover Centre! We will be going on **Thursday 24th November 2022**.

We will be travelling to the centre by the DLR and we would like to invite parents to join us. We can only take one adult per child; siblings will not be able to attend. We are planning to leave school around 9.00am and return to school by 12:30pm. I will be sending out the trip letter soon. Due to number limits, we are only able to take 13 parents and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please come speak to me.

Nativity Show

This year the Early Years will put on a Christmas performance told in a different way through songs and actions. Every child will dress up and take part in the show. We will let you know soon what role your child will play and either give you a line to rehearse or song actions to practice.

Please support your child by practising at home especially if they have a talking part as we want our children to show resilience and confidence during the final performance.

It will be a highlight and enjoyable experience for all to watch!

Home Learning

Home Learning is an effective tool used to support the learning in the classroom and to help children develop into independent learners. In EYFS, children learn through experiences, hands on learning and play. Home Learning will focus on developing and supporting communication/language skills, understanding of the world, and physical development. Home Learning will be set as projects where the children will be able to learn or create something to share with their classmates. This half term’s home learning will be:

- **The Moon**: spend time learning some facts about the moon, such as: how it changes through the month or what it is like on the moon. How would you travel to the Moon?
- **Spend time looking at the night sky**: What can you see? Can you see any star constellations? Can you draw or create a picture of the night sky?
- **Explore materials from the Three Little Pigs and build a house**: Design a plan and then get building! – Which materials would make the best house? What makes straw, stick or brick the best material to build with? How did you build your house? What steps did you take to make it?

Learning Journeys – Tapestry

This year in our Early Years we are using a new online learning journal called Tapestry to showcase our children’s amazing learning. A letter will be sent to all parents with registration details for Tapestry. We will continue to upload photos of your child’s learning in school to their learning journals, so please enjoy looking at the photos and videos. Also, feel free to add your

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own photos if you wish, it is always wonderful to see the learning that goes on outside of school too.

Healthy bodies, healthy minds

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Lots of water to drink.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth every morning and every night before bed to stay healthy.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EACH DAY so they can drink freely throughout the morning.

Important events / diary dates

- Children in Need- Friday 18th November
- Parents Evening –
 - Wednesday 16th November
 - Thursday 17th November
- Trip to Stratford Discover – Thursday 24th November
- Christmas costume workshop- Wednesday 30th November 9am
- Christmas performance (Show day) – Wednesday 14th December
- Christmas Party- Thursday 15th December (come to school dressed in party clothes)
- Last day of term- Friday 16th December at 2pm

Thank you for your continued support.
Reception Team