

SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

Reception



Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break filled with joy and relaxation. As we begin the Spring 1 term, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting half term ahead with lots of engaging learning opportunities for your children.

What are we learning about?

Core Text: *Handa's Surprise*

This half term, we will be exploring the story of *Handa's Surprise*. The children will learn about familiar and exotic fruits while discovering the lives of children from around the world. Using *Handa's Surprise* as our inspiration, we will compare daily routines, food, clothing, homes, and activities of children from different regions. Highlights of our learning will include:

- **Tasting and describing fruit:** The children will write simple sentences about their favourite fruit.
- **Exploring geography:** We'll use maps and globes to identify continents and countries, and discuss the differences between hot and cold climates.
- **Science investigations:** The children will learn about habitats in hot and cold climates and investigate ways to rescue Arctic animals from ice.

Phonics

We will continue with the *ALS Letters and Sounds* programme, focusing on Phase 3 sounds. This includes learning single-letter phonemes (j, v, w, x, y, z) and moving on to digraphs such as *sh, th, ch, gg*, and *qq*. The children will practise blending sounds for reading and segmenting words for spelling.

High Frequency words will continue to be sent home for practice. These words are essential for fluency and comprehension, so please encourage your child to work on these regularly. This term, we'll also focus on writing simple sentences with capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops.

Maths

In Maths, we'll secure and develop key skills: counting, ordering, and estimating numbers using subitising. Learning about parts that make up a whole number. Practicing addition through counting on and combining groups of objects, and solving problems involving doubling, sharing, mass, and capacity.

Bug Club

We are excited to introduce *Bug Club*, an online library of phonetically decodable books. This resource will help your child develop reading fluency and confidence. Please support your child by encouraging them to read at least one *Bug Club* book each week. We will hold a Parental Workshop within the next two weeks to demonstrate how to use *Bug Club*. Parents will receive a text message with the confirmed details.

A Few Reminders

- **Reading for Pleasure:** Please return class library books and reading records every Thursday. Books will be checked and changed on Fridays.
- **Daily Reading Practice:** Reading for pleasure with your child at home is invaluable. Share books, magazines, poems, or comics together, and aim to sign their reading record weekly.

Thank you for your continued support in making your child's learning journey successful and enjoyable. We look forward to working together this term!

The Reception Team