

Reception Class, April 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the start of the Summer term. We hope that you have enjoyed a restful Easter break with your families.

Topics

This term our theme is 'All Kinds of Animals'. We will be thinking about how animals are similar or different to each other and investigating the different climates and environments where different animals live. We will be listening to and learning about lots of stories with an animal theme and finding out about information books and how we can use them to find out more about our favourite animals. Our animal topic will extend across all the areas of learning in the Early Years curriculum. Please see the attached planning web for the Summer term for more detailed information.

£5 Contribution

We ask for a £5 voluntary contribution for each child each term. These contributions allow us to purchase items which are not available or are more expensive when purchased through catalogues. The money is mainly used for cooking and playdough ingredients and for art and craft materials or items such as compost, seeds, and plant pots so that we can do some planting.

Reading

Please continue to read with your child at home as often as possible. All children will have reading books to bring home each week. They also have flash cards to practise sounding out or reading by sight. Children will usually read once a week in class. Miss Hurley wrote to you this week to explain that we have a new phonics-based reading scheme, and you will notice the new books in your child's book bag.

Phonics Books

Thank you to those of you who have worked with your child each week on practising the phonemes in their red phonics book. We send home the phonemes that we have learned in class each week so that your child can practise them at home. It really makes a difference to how quickly they learn their new phonemes if they have the opportunity for that extra practise. If you are unsure about the phonics that your child is doing at school, please do ask.

Progress

In June we will be assessing the children against the Early Learning Goals, as we do every year as the children leave Early Years and move into Key Stage One. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please do email and ask as we are happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this.

Clothing

During the summer term we will spend a lot of time outside and many of our indoor activities will be moved into the outdoor area. It is important that children have a sun hat at school for when the weather gets warmer. We are not able to put sun cream on children at school so

please make sure you have applied sun cream at home each morning. Choose a sun cream which has been designed to last for the whole day. Children must bring their water bottle every day. We are happy to rinse and refill water bottles if they are empty or if they have accidentally been left in school from the day before.

A set of spare clothes is a necessity, and we still have several children in the class who do not have any spare clothes in their bag. There are numerous reasons why a child might need to get changed during the day, so your child needs a spare set of clothes even if you know they are unlikely ever to have a toilet accident.

School Lunches

This term we will make a few changes to help the children to get ready for Year One in September. After half term, we will begin asking the children to collect their school lunch from the serving hatch rather than having it brought to them at the table as they have done so far this school year. At the end of their meal, they will be encouraged to clear away their own plate, cutlery, and cup rather than having an adult do it for them. This is to help them to become more independent ready for Year One in September.

Items to donate

This term we will be encouraging our children to develop their imaginations and design skills by making models in our outdoor junk modelling area. As you can imagine, we get through a vast quantity of cardboard boxes, tubes, and cartons every day. It would be great if you were able to collect up any old boxes and food packaging to donate for our junk modelling area. The kind of things we need are: cereal boxes, cardboard or plastic food packaging (which must be clean), yoghurt pots, toilet roll or kitchen roll cardboard tubes, string, wool and ribbons, empty plastic bottles (not milk bottles though as they tend to get rather smelly!), Easter egg boxes, and egg boxes.

No aluminium cans or empty tins thank you as they can have sharp edges.

Boxes and packaging can be handed in at the classroom door at drop off or pick up time.

Thank you to those parents who already regularly collect and donate their recycling.

Break for Half Term: Thursday 26th May at 3pm

Return to school: Monday 6th June

We hope this information is useful, do not hesitate to ask if you have questions at any time.

Email us at reception@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Best wishes from,

Mrs Demarchi, Miss Hurley, and Mrs Painton