

Year R Spring 2 Term Curriculum Newsletter

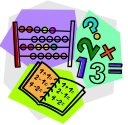
1st March 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,



The first topic for this half term is 'Apple Tree Farm'. During this topic we will be finding out what Mrs Boot and her family do on Apple Tree Farm through sharing stories. We all had a fantastic time with Mill Cottage Farm visiting us and we learned lots about the animals that came to visit, and how the farmers look after each of them! We have been given the responsibility of some eggs in incubators to look after in our classrooms, and we are all eagerly looking forward to seeing how many of our eggs hatch!

Continuing on the theme of birth and new life, our second topic this half term is 'Easter'. The children will be being very creative and messy, making a few Easter things to share with you.



In Maths we will continue to counting on forwards and backwards from a given number and will begin to count in 2s. We will be continuing to practise our addition skills, and then we will introduce the concept of subtraction (taking away) through a variety of different practical activities.

We are delighted with the progress the children are making with their phonics and reading. We have now covered all the sounds taught in Year R and will continue focusing on fluency of blending and recognising of digraphs within words (e.g. feet or goat). A little each day has a huge impact on their learning. This does not have to be solely through our reading scheme books and word strips. Try looking for words in the environment, making words with magnetic letters and reading simpler words in the story books you share with them. These skills are just as valuable, and more importantly, fun! Please remember that all children learn at different rates and we will support them according to their individual needs. We assess each child's progress daily through our phonic and reading sessions, ensuring they are receiving the correct reading books.



In writing we are continuing to strengthen the children's hand control with manipulative activities and are teaching them how to hold their pencils correctly. A good pencil grip is key to a child's development in their writing skills. We will be writing a mixture of label, lists and captions this half term.



We are often asked about what you can do at home to help your children, here are a few suggestions:-

- Please practice the sounds books as it is very important that children know their letter sounds for reading and writing. "I spy" with letter sounds is a good game to practise them
- Using magnetic letters on the fridge to make words from their word boxes
- Drawing and hand strengthening activities e.g. Playdough, Lego, cutting and sticking
- Writing words with different materials - paint, water and paintbrush, in shaving foam
- Number, dice and card games - snap, dominoes, snakes and ladders
- Every day maths - shopping (money), cooking (weighing), DIY (measuring)
- Counting on from a number other than 1 to extend their understanding of the number system

We look forward to meeting with you all again soon at our Parent/Teacher Meetings - **Tuesday 12th March** and **Thursday 14th March**, and our end of topic celebration event on **Wednesday 4th April** at 2.50pm.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Dutson
Squirrel Class



Nita Hearne
Otter Class



Arabelle Dunne
Hedgehog Class