

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas holiday! Thank you very much for your kind gifts and messages. It has been lovely to welcome the children back for a new term. Thank you so much for continuing to support your children in their classes this year, we are looking forward to another exciting term!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to any new families and we hope you find Moorside to be a friendly and exciting place to learn and grow!

The EYFS team are looking forward to a busy and fantastic term ahead! The staff in EYFS this term are:

Mrs Burland, Mrs E Thompson, Miss Barsby, Mrs B Thompson and Mrs Tiffany.

School day timings

The school day in Reception starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:15pm. Nursery starts at 8:45am and finishes at 11:45am for morning children and 3:15pm if your child stays all day. Please ensure that your child is on time for school as we start our learning straight away and arriving late can make children feel unsettled.

Nursery children should be dropped off and collected from the EYFS outdoor area.

Staff are always available to chat about your child but mornings can be a very busy time so (if possible) please try to catch staff at the end of the school day. If you would like to discuss things more privately with a member of staff, please contact the school office and either a phone call or meeting can be arranged.

Toys

Whilst we welcome comfort toys in school for use when needed, please do not allow your child to bring general toys from home as this can cause upset if they get lost or are broken.

Reading



Reception children will be bringing their reading books home on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that you read with your child **AT LEAST FIVE TIMES A WEEK**. This is so important to your child's progress. Reading books will come home every Monday and need to be brought back into school every Thursday. A new reading book will then be given out to be returned the following Monday.

Nursery and Reception children will be bringing home a school library book that they have chosen themselves; please share this book at home, talking about the story (plot and characters) as well as looking at the illustrations. Library books will be changed every Monday in Nursery and Thursday in Reception.

Please note, library books / reading books will only be renewed if the previous book has been returned to school.

Phonics

In school we follow the 'Little Wandle' scheme and Reception children will be introduced to the phase 3 diagraphs in the Spring Term.

Homework

A Homework Challenge sheet is set for the children in Reception. This will change every two weeks as we introduce a new story. The homework sheet will consist of a drawing/making/doing activity and one or two 'talk' activities. Talking is very important in the Early Years because it helps children develop the skills they need to learn, express themselves and make friends.

The government website for help for early years providers states:

Having a large vocabulary helps children learn more. Words allow them to make sense of the world around them.

Communication and language is a EYFS prime area which means that it's one of the important building blocks for all the other areas. If it's not developed early, it's difficult to achieve later.

Children's language skills are connected to their overall development and can predict their educational success. As speaking and listening develops, children build foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing.

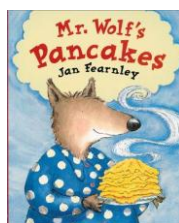
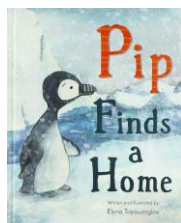
Please feel free to video the talk homework and upload them on to Tapestry. We will also allow time in class for your child to share their homework with the rest of the class.

Curriculum

Reception

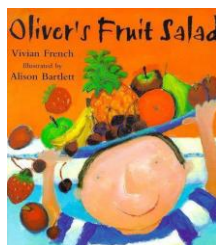
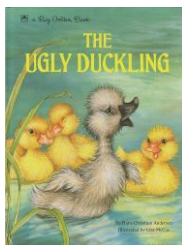
Spring 1 - We are focusing on the topics: Winter, Polar Regions (North and South Pole), Materials (floating and sinking), maps and Chinese New Year.

Stories are a key part of our curriculum and high-quality texts will be used throughout the day to foster the children's love of reading. Some of the texts we will use to support our learning are: Pip Finds a Home, The Magic Paintbrush and Mr Wolf's Pancakes.



Spring 2 - we are focusing on the topics: Seasons (Spring), plants and animals, Easter and Healthy Teeth.

Some of the texts we will use to support our learning are: The Ugly Duckling, Oliver's Fruit Salad and the poem 'How does your Garden Grow.'



We practise letter formation every day in Reception but your child will greatly benefit from 1:1 practice at home alongside this. If you are able to support your child in this way, please refer to the letter formation sheet attached to this newsletter.

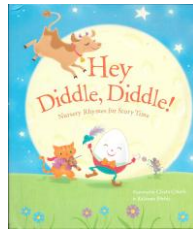
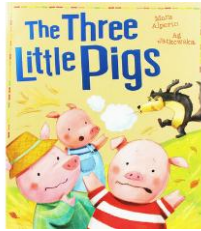
Maths

This half term our focus will be on representing zero, comparing numbers up to 5, composition of numbers to 5, we will then build on composition of numbers and look at the composition of numbers 6, 7 and 8. This will deepen the children's number sense and basic maths skills. The children will use a range of resources to show their mathematical thinking and will practise and revisit concepts until they are confident enough to apply it independently to a range of situations and talk about their process.

Nursery

In the first part of the Spring term we will be finding out about materials; how they feel, how they change and what we can use them for. We will explore this topic with our stories - The Three Little Pigs and the Gingerbread Man. We will continue to learn Nursery rhymes weekly, working on language development. Our focus rhymes this term are Hey Diddle Diddle.

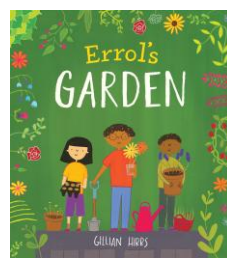
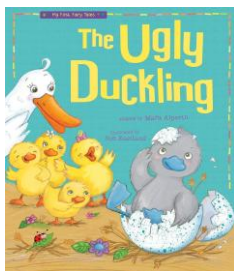
We will be looking at signs of Winter in our outdoor area supported by books in our class library.



Just before half term we will talk about festivals and traditions when we look at the Chinese New Year through the story 'The Great Race.' It's the year of the Horse starting on 17th February.

In the second part of the Spring Term Nursery will explore life cycles looking at baby animals and how they develop; The Ugly Duckling is a lovely story for the children to learn with this topic. Nursery will read the story 'Errol's Garden' looking at bringing a community together through creative community gardening.

Our focus rhyme is 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary.'



Outdoor activities and PE:

Outdoor activities and PE - EYFS will have Forest School every Friday morning - please ensure that your child is wearing suitable clothing for the weather.

As learning outside continues to be an essential part of the EYFS curriculum, we access our outside areas daily, so please ensure that named waterproof coat and trousers (or an all-in-one) and a pair of wellies are left in school at all times.

Reception will have a PE lesson on a Thursday. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on this day. If the weather is nice, we will be outside for the lesson. Please ensure that trainers have velcro fastenings (unless your child is able to tie their own shoe laces).

Marvellous Me

Please make sure that you are signed up to Marvellous Me and have installed the app on your phone. This is a super way of sharing great work your child has done at school.

Tapestry

Tapestry is used in school to record the children's daily achievements. These are shared with you through the app and there are always lots of photos for you to enjoy talking about with your child. It is a brilliant way for you to keep up to date with what your child has been learning at school and also an easy way for you to show home learning / activities (or special events / achievements) with us in school. The children LOVE to share what they have been doing at home with their friends in school so please send us any photos!

Milk

Once your child has turned five you are required to pay for school milk. Please let the office know if you would like your child to continue to have milk if they are five.

We are looking forward to another busy and successful term. If you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Spare Clothes

Please ensure your child has a complete set of spare clothes at school. During these cold winter months, children will need extra clothing layers and socks for Forest School.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The EYFS team