

# Summer Term in Reception

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been lovely to have all the children back in school after the Easter break. This letter is to explain some important information for the Summer Term and a few reminders too!

## The Curriculum

In Reception we have 7 equal areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Mathematics, Understanding of the World, Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design

All areas are taught through play based learning

We observe your children through the 'Characteristics of effective learning' which are:

- Playing and exploring (engagement)
- Active learning (motivation)
- Creating and thinking critically (thinking about their own learning)



## Spring term

Our topic this term is 'Paws, Claws and Fluffy Tails'. We will start with learning about dinosaurs and then move onto minibeasts, farm animals and sea creatures. In maths we will also focus on the numbers 10-20 and simple problem solving and calculations.

We encourage the children to practise subitising (recognising amounts without having to count) and learning number facts such as number bonds to 5 and doubles, off by heart



In phonics we will be using all of phonemes we have learnt to practise reading and writing words and sentences. We will look at counting syllables, alphabetical order and, after half term, upper and lower case letters. We will continue to develop our tricky word knowledge and appreciate your support with practising these at home. The children will also be working on their handwriting in order to develop correct letter formation.

We will continue to upload the weekly phonics and handwriting focus for you on Seesaw.



In PE, the children will work on balance and then throwing and catching for the first half term which develops their gross and fine motor skills. In the second half term they will be preparing for their first sports day at Holbrook School!

In music, the focus will be on learning about tempo and different instruments. As part of Understanding the World, we will learn about lifecycles and different creatures and their habitats. We will also be visiting Washbrooks Farm in June, as part of our Farm topic. Further details about this trip will follow in the coming weeks.



Children will continue to bring books home – the children are responsible for changing their own story books. Please put Felicity Phonic books, with their diaries, in the book change boxes by the door when you have read them 3 times at home and they are ready to be changed.

## Outdoor learning/ PE

PE will still be on Wednesdays and Outdoor Learning will still be on Thursdays and will be linked to our current topics.

**Wednesdays** - come in in their **PE kits**, they will also come home in their PE kits

**Thursdays** - come in in their **outdoor learning kit**. Please **bring in school uniform** for them to change into for the afternoon (in a named bag). Outdoor Learning attire: long-sleeved top (protect them from stinging nettles, etc), long trousers/leggings, jumper/coat, waterproofs, wellies/old trainers. Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather and dressed in clothes they can get on and off independently. (Even when it is very hot, the children still need to have long sleeves and long trousers to protect them from stings and scratches.) It is also worth sending in a change of socks/undies in case they get wet!



Please ensure that EVERYTHING is labelled. Thank you for your support.



#### Drinks and snacks

Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school every day, containing **only water**. Your child will be offered a piece of fruit or veg at snack time every day, and they also have the opportunity to have some milk if you have signed up to 'cool milk' which is free for under 5s. More information is on the school website.

Communication is important and we understand that we are unable to have the 1:1 contact on the playground with all parents at drop off and pick up, but please feel free to email us with any question or queries and we will try to respond as soon as possible.

[otters@holbrookprimaryschool.com](mailto:otters@holbrookprimaryschool.com)

[hedgehogs@holbrookprimaryschool.com](mailto:hedgehogs@holbrookprimaryschool.com)

Don't forget to keep an eye on Seesaw as we will be uploading information, web links, notices and photographs regularly!



Thank you for all of your support 😊

The Reception team