

## SPRING TERM 1 – RECEPTION CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Our topic for the spring term will be [Winter, Snow, Ice & Dark Nights](#). The children will be immersed in all things wintery from snowy small worlds, icy experiments and exploring the season changes in our forest. We will be listening to stories such as Snow Bears and One Snowy night to ignite imagination and develop the children's vocabulary.

After celebrating the amazing achievements of our first term we will now begin to focus on developing the children's independence further, empowering them to make their own decisions, problem solve and increase resilience to challenges. We have introduced a self-service snack area where the children can make choices from a menu and prepare it for themselves. We will be moving away from working in individual books to using a class floor book. This collaborative method of documenting will enable the children to have more agency over what we learn when and will provide opportunities to reflect and revisit learning as well as gain insights from their peer's contributions and our observations. We can't wait to share these with you and enjoy the learning experiences they create.

### Phonics

The children will continue to take part in daily Read Write Inc. lessons. After assessments the children have been grouped by ability and will move to the appropriate group to ensure continued progression. Depending on the children's grouping they will be bringing home daily sound sheets, ditties, blending books or reading books in their book bags. Please check these every day and support your child to practice reading and writing the letter sounds at home, little and often at home really does make all the difference.

### Numeracy

We will be continuing to follow the White Rose Maths scheme and number blocks. This half term, we will introduce zero, compare quantities in mass and capacity ensuring children learn the correct vocabulary to describe more and less.

### Understanding the World

The children have absolutely loved sharing their adventures with Ekta the Elephant and Leo the Leopard and we have all enjoyed looking at the pictures, hearing about, birthdays, trips away, visits to the washing machine and much more. Please reassure the children that if they haven't had the opportunity yet their turn will come. Our fantastic forest area gives us the perfect backdrop for exploring the signs of changes in seasons and what winter looks, feels and smells like. We will be thinking about how winter affects animals, investigating nocturnal and hibernating animals. We will be experimenting with temperatures, making colourful icy orbs observing the process of melting. We love to learn about as many cultural festivals and celebrations as possible and this term we will be learning about the Lunar New Year. If we have any families that celebrate this festival we would love to invite you in to share your experiences with the children so please let us know if you are available.

### Physical development

The children will continue to access activities that will develop both fine and gross motor skills from climbing in forest fun to threading and weaving. They will continue to have a PE lesson each week, this will take place on a Thursday afternoon for both classes. The children have developed excellent listening skills and are able to negotiate space and obstacles safely so we will be developing these skills further focusing on the precision of these movements and accuracy with throwing, rolling and catching. Please remember to send your child to school dressed in PE clothes, with long hair tied back and earrings removed. Sometimes PE is outside so during colder and sometimes wet weather please ensure they have suitable footwear.

## Expressive Arts & Design

The children will continue working with different media and materials. To increase opportunities for individual expression we have introduced a “junk model shop” where children can help themselves to items and follow their own interests. We hope you will enjoy seeing their creations. To keep us well stocked we would be very grateful for contributions from home. We just ask that any packaging donated is clean and safe for the children. Our music lessons and weekly assembly provide the children with opportunities to learn new songs, explore instruments and immerse themselves in a variety of genres from the traditional to rock. This term we will listening to Tchaikovsky compositions and discussing how the classical music makes us feel.

## Home Learning

The value of reading and being read to at home is immeasurable. It supports cognitive development, extends vocabulary, imagination, creativity and cultivates a lifelong love of reading so we would like to open our library for families to be able to share the experience of choosing and reading a book. More details explaining the opening of the library will follow shortly. Hopefully you have all been able to activate your log ins for Bug club and will continue to utilise the online library. Please let us know if you need any support with this. As mentioned dependent on your child’s Read Write Inc group there will be a sheet to practise the sound they have learned that day, a ditty or book. Please make sure when you have practised at home books are kept in book bags so they are always available to exchange in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Cobley  
Elephant Class Teacher

&

Mrs Wroblewski  
Leopard Class Teacher