

Early Year Unit: Reception Newsletter – Spring 1

Welcome

Welcome back to a new term at Hazel Leys. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas break and a relaxing start to the New Year. Thank you to everyone for your support last term. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas play and were as proud of your children as we were.

Miss Wareing

Spring 1 Focus

This term's learning will be all about "Space". The children will learn about our sun and how it warms our planet, how gravity keeps us from falling off the ground, about people who study the stars including Galileo and Caroline Herschel, about astronauts including Mae Jaimeson, about the International Space Station and the planets in our solar system.

We will look at stars and constellations, the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and the Mars 2020 mission that has put a rover on the red planet. The learning this term aims to inspire the children to think beyond their immediate environment and begin to ask scientific questions about what we know and understand about space.

To end our learning this term, we will be going on a class trip to the Space Centre on Thursday 13th February 2025. A letter was sent out before the Christmas holiday with information about payment and giving consent.

Phonics

During this term, some of the children will move on to phases 3 phonic sounds with the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme. Following on from our assessments, some of the children will use this term to recap our Autumn term's learning. Your child will continue to come home with a phonics book which will be updated with a practice sheet every time they learn a new sound. Please visit our school website to get up-to-date information about phonics at Hazel Leys.



<https://www.hazelleysacademy.org/page/?title=Phonics&pid=219>

Literacy - Writing

During this term we will be expecting children to come up with their own ideas for their writing.



During our guided writing sessions, children will be encouraged to listen for all sounds they can hear in the words they want to write. They will also be given daily opportunities to do this independently.

Our written work will be linked to the wide range of books that we share as a class, such as 'Astro Girl', 'How to Catch a Star' and 'Zoom to the Moon'.

Literacy - Reading

Your child will continue to take part in 4 reading lessons a week where they will learn how to decode word, read with prosody and develop their comprehension.



Please read the book repeatedly to help your child develop their confidence and fluency. Don't forget to **write in their reading records** to let us know when they have been reading at home. If you are having any issues with the eBooks, please speak to a member of staff.

Your child will still choose a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to take home at the end of each week. This is a book to be shared with the adults at home. There is no expectation that they can read this book independently.

Maths

This term we are continuing to look at how numbers are represented. We also include counting strategies to every lesson along with looking at shape, space, measure, addition and subtraction. This term there will be focus on how addition and subtraction can be recorded and develop our understanding of mathematical symbols.



The children will use lots of hands-on resources to support with their maths work and our continuous provision will be set up so that children can practice mathematic skills they have already learnt in order to deepen their understanding.

Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on how to retell a story. We will be encouraging the children to act being an astronaut and focusing on using vocabulary that we have taught in our English and Understanding the World lessons.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of our emotions as well as providing the children with plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively. Each week, we will have our zones of regulation lesson, where we teach children about different emotions and talk about how we can express them.



Physical Development

To continue to strengthen our gross and fine motor skills we have dough disco and Get Squiggling sessions to strengthen body control, hand grip and pencil control.



Our PE lessons continue to be on Wednesday. Children are to **attend school in their PE kit**.

Children need to have an Academy PE t-shirt, shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings depending on the weather and an Academy Jumper. All children must be wearing trainers. Please also ensure they **do not wear any jewellery and that long hair is tied back**.

Understanding the World

This term we will be exploring seasonal changes as the weather gets colder so the children can observe how winter changes the world around them. We will also be exploring Chinese New Year to compare how people celebrate around the world.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be linking all of our Arts and Design activities to our unit of Space. Children will use papier mache to make their own planets, as well as creating a whole class display about space. They will also create stars and rockets using a range of materials and will be encouraged to use them in their imaginative play. The children will also be making Chinese crafts as part of our Chinese New Year learning.



This term we will have a range of role play opportunities for the children to explore such as a rocket and the International Space Station.

Helping your child learn at home

- Daily reading using your child’s school reading book and ‘Reading for Pleasure’ book.
- Phonics practice using your child’s phonics book.
- Encourage your child to dress and zip up their coat independently.



Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities.





Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



Class information

Class Teacher: Miss Wareing
Teaching Assistants: Miss Witton and Mrs Clough

- Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts and to make it a healthy selection of food.
- Please could we ask that all children bring in at least two changes of clothes. These can be kept in a bag on their pegs. Staff will inform you if they have had to change your child.
- Please could children wear the correct Hazel Leys school uniform; purple jumper/cardigan, white polo shirt, black/grey trousers/shirts and black shoes. Please do not send your child into school in jeans. We will inform you of any mufti days.



Thank you for your support with these matters.

Dates for the diary!



- Monday 6th January – School reopens to pupils
- Friday 10th January – Newsletters to parents
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th January – Maths drop in sessions



- Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February – Children's Mental Health week
- Monday 10th to Friday 14th February – Science week
- Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day
- Friday 14th February – School closes for half term