

Early Year Unit: Reception Newsletter – Spring 2

Welcome

Thank you to everyone for your support last term and for those who attended our Maths workshop. We hope you enjoyed seeing what Maths looks like in Reception at Hazel Leys. We had a fantastic term learning about space, and we hope your children enjoyed it as much as the staff did!

Miss Wareing

Spring 2 Focus

This term's learning will be 'Growing and Changing'. Your child will explore seasons, growing plants, how animals grow and change, food and farming and how we grow and change. We will learn that we have four seasons on Earth and we link this back to our learning about how the Earth orbits the sun. Then continuing to think about the idea of change, your child will think about the past and how places change over time. We will also have an opportunity to plant a seed and observe its growth as well as looking at how animals grow and change.

Phonics

During this term, we will be continuing to use our assessments to ensure your child is getting targeted phonics teaching. With a focus on phase 2 and 3 phonic sounds with the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme, your child will learn how to decode and words using the sounds we have learnt so far. 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 continue to expect children to come up with their own ideas for their writing.



We are now expecting the children to listen to sounds independently in order to try and write words that they want. This is expected in both their guided and independent writing.

We introduced Pop sentences last half term and will be continuing with these. Our Pop sentences give the children daily opportunities for independent writing.

Our written work will be linked to the wide range of books that we share as a class, such as 'Tree', 'It starts with a seed' and 'The Enormous Turnip'.

Literacy - Reading

Your child will continue to take part in 4 reading lessons a week where they will learn how to decode words, read with prosody and develop their comprehension. Books are changed weekly with the new book being sent home after we have read it in school.



Please read the book repeatedly to help your child develop their confidence, fluency and comprehension. Don't forget to **write in their reading records** to let us know when they have been reading at home.

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

We are continuing to practice our subitising skills by looking at increasingly complex arrangements. Your child will look at how quantities can be represented in different ways, including matching numerals with a number of items. This term, we will be focusing on 1 more than a number, using blocks, cubes and squares to ensure the concept can be visualised by the children.



Communication and Language

This term we will continue to retell stories in a variety of ways, ensuring that the children take on different roles. Children will be taught subject specific vocabulary so that they can use it accurately when talking about growing. We will be setting up a garden centre for the children to use their language to sell plants. We offer daily opportunities for the children to talk, share ideas and use new language in all areas of their learning.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we are building upon our previous work using a range of stories to encourage children to talk about their emotions and share regulation strategies. There will be a focus on how we can be a good friend and how to deal with disagreements. We will also be learning about how to keep ourselves healthy, including talking about food, exercise and hygiene.



Physical Development

We will be continuing to develop our fine motor skills through; dough disco, handwriting practice, and Get Squiggling sessions to strengthen body control, hand grip and pencil control.



Our **PE lessons** are still on a **Friday**. Please could all children 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 learning about seasons and doing observational drawings of plants and seeds as they grow and change. The children will also be planting fruit/veg in our gardening area which will link to our personal, social and emotional learning.



We will be taking part in Easter celebrations and will learn about why it is an important celebration to people all over the world.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be making lots of artwork that link to our stories, including painting/making plants, taking pictures of growth over time and fruit/veg printing. The children will also be making Mother's Day and Easter crafts throughout the term. The children will have a range of role play opportunities so they can experience planting, growing and taking on the role of a gardener.



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 practice reading and writing the tricky words that are sent home.



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 Pritchard



Please could all children arrive at school by 8:55am as learning starts promptly at this time. The gate by the classroom is open from 8:45am and will be closed at 8:55am. Children who are late miss out on the start of our daily learning and disturb the children who have arrived on time.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you do not put anything in that contains nuts and to make it a healthy selection of food.

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 26th February – School reopens to pupils start of term 4

Monday 26th February – 9.00-9.30am Rugby session with Saints



Thursday 7th March – World Book Day Dress Up Day

Monday 11th-15th March – Travelling Book Fair in school

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day – Mufti Day

Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March – Parents Consultation Evenings 3.00- 6pm, 3.00-5.30-pm

Friday 22nd March – School Photographs – Class (8.45am)

Thursday 28th March – School closes for Easter