



Summer 2024 Dormice Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter! We hope you've had a wonderful Easter break and are ready for the last term in Reception. Below are some reminders, useful information and an overview of our learning for the Summer term.

Staff

Teacher: Miss Selwyn (Dormice), Miss Woodward (Hedgehogs)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Line, Mrs Jamieson (Mon-Weds), Miss Hamlett (Thurs-Fri), Mrs Palmer (Friday afternoon)

General Information

- Each day your child will need to bring in their red book bag, a labelled water bottle and a coat (if applicable). Please see the uniform policy attached for more information for seasonal uniform.
- Snack will be available throughout the day or children can bring in their own **healthy** snack, ideally fruit. Please no sweets or chocolate.
- Reading records will be reviewed weekly and changing of books will be on a **Thursday**. Please ensure your child is using their coloured reading folders to maintain their condition. Lost or damaged books will result in a £5 fine. If you do not return their reading book on time, we will be unable to exchange it for their next one. Thank you.
- PE days will continue to be on a **Wednesday** with Mr Elton and **Friday** with class teachers.
- Show and Tell will continue to be on a **Monday** afternoon.

Expected Homework

- Reading – the children will bring home a different Little Wandle book each Thursday to read at least 4 times over the week. Please complete the reading record after your child has read. This provides a dialogue between home and school about your child's progress and next steps in their learning.

Optional Homework

There will be a menu of termly optional homework tasks on the class web page. All activities are linked to our learning in class so it's a great way for your child to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects we're covering. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks and they can bring in their work to celebrate. Alternatively, you can upload any work they have produced to Tapestry.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Please contact the office via admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk to arrange a time for a phone call or a meeting. We're looking forward to what this next term brings and put all of our learning into practice.

A big thank you for your continued support,
Miss Selwyn and Miss Woodward

Phonics

This half term we will be moving on to our Phase 4 journey where we will begin to focus on applying the sounds taught in previous phases. No new graphemes are introduced. The purpose of this phase is to consolidate children's knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants (br, spl) and polysyllabic words (helpdesk, windmill). Please do continue to read the blog for useful tips in this phase as it is such an important step in your child's reading journey. As always, there will be a home learning downloadable file on the blog to support consolidation of that week.

We will also be learning more tricky words which are words that cannot be sounded out but must be read automatically. We always work on identifying the 'tricky' parts of the word where they are not always phonetically decodable. Please do ask your child which part of the word is 'tricky', they are very good at spotting this!

In the second half term, we will be focussing on words ending in suffixes -ing, -ed /t/, -ed /id/, -ed /d/, -er, -est and reading and writing longer words. This will be in preparation for the transition to Year 1.

Pathways to Write

We have a books-based approach to the teaching of writing and we choose books that will inspire, entertain and excite our children. This half term's reading can be found on our class pages. We ask that you don't read these books in advance as it's lovely to discover them together. It's also important that we can develop their prediction skills which is difficult if they already know the book!

Core text for Spring 1: **Gigantosaurus** by Jonny Duddle which will lead us to write a description of the main character using vocabulary we have learnt throughout the unit.

Core text for Spring 2: **Supertato** by Sue Hendra which will inspire us to create our own Wanted poster.

Alongside this, we will be delving into the world of farmyard poetry, plastic pollution and continuing to create a language rich based environment through other reading materials.

Maths

Counting beyond 10 – noticing patterns in ones

Counting beyond 20 – noticing pattern in tens

Religious Education

We will be finding out about other cultures such as Eid/Ramadan, Jack the Dog will be supporting us with more stories All about Jesus and learn why Christians say Jesus is special. We will also be learning about Pentecost.

PE

Our PE kit is **red school logo PE shirt/plain red t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and pumps/trainers. Football kit should not be worn.** This half term we will be focusing on gymnastics. We will be developing our balance, agility and co-ordination and learning how to balance and move around/on the apparatus in the hall under control. In the second half term, we will be exploring different striking apparatus and attempt to hit a ball towards a given direction. On your child's PE day, they should come to school in their kit and remain in it for the whole day.

Date for the Diary:

- Sports Day (9-10am) – Friday 24th May
- School trip to Park Hall Farm – Wednesday 5th June
- End of Year Show (Baptist Methodist Church 9am) – Tuesday 16th July
- PTA School BBQ – Tuesday 16th July

Understanding the World

Past and Present

Dinosaurs – create a simple timeline until the present day.

Learn about Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot – as female palaeontologists and David Attenborough.

Heroes who have contributed to the future: Frida Kahlo, Stephen Hawking, Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai, Rob Burrow, the Lionesses.

Summer Changes

People, Culture and Communities

Palaeontologists – exploring the past

Visiting Methodist Church

Fairtrade

The Natural World

Explore a range of materials, including natural materials (explore photos and artefacts - fossils, dinosaur bones)

Learn about how to take care of themselves. Healthy vs unhealthy – make fruit kebabs.

Explore plants and animals in a contrasting natural environment (Tarporley and the Jungle – link to Dinosaurs)

Play and explore outside in all seasons and in different weather (Summer Changes)

Explore the animals in the surrounding natural environment (link to the farmyard trip and having chicks)

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials

We will explore these two key questions to develop our artistic skills.

Spring 1 - How can we explore materials and marks?

Spring 2 - How can we explore 3D materials?

Being Imaginative

Singing and performance skills linked to our End of Year Show

Traditional songs and nursery rhymes

How you can support at home...

- Read, read, read! Please continue to read as much as possible with your child to develop their fluency (not sounding out). A useful tip to enhance children's comprehension skills is to use the starter sentence 'I know that because...' When reading at home you might get the answer "I don't know" to a question but keep encouraging your child to reread to support these useful skills. They do know it, but may need more practise. Rereading for fluency is key!
- Continue to support writing in different contexts. For example, writing in birthday cards, forming letters in glitter/sand/flour or using the laminated whiteboard to practise the different actions for each letter.
- All the activities on the optional home menu can be downloaded from our class page. We'd recommend encouraging your child to choose from the menu – the activities can be done in any order and at any point during the term – so they have opportunities to deepen their understanding and practise their skills.
- As always, you are more than welcome to extend your child's learning at home. Please check the blog for weekly information and suggested activities for home learning
- Remember to upload any 'WOW' moments your child has to Tapestry. We love to see this!
- Please continue to see the weekly blog to keep up to date with the latest information regarding what your child has been learning each week.