



Yellow Class Summer Term 2018

This term we will be exploring **Growing and Living** and the children will be discussing various animals and the environment they need to survive. We will also be observing a variety of fruit and vegetables in the garden in our outdoor area. We planted some potatoes before the Easter holiday and will continue to observe and discuss the growth and changes as well as planting and caring for other plants during the term.

We were very excited with the arrival of some duck eggs at the start of the week. The children will follow the development from the egg to a duckling, for around ten days when the ducklings will either return to their farm or there is the opportunity for them to be re-homed locally. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone that would like this opportunity and I can provide more details of cost and the resources needed.



The ducks are called Pekins. The ducklings grow at an astonishing rate and we should see a big difference between the size of them when they hatch to when they leave the classroom. The ducklings hatch out yellow in colour and are white when fully grown. Ducks love water from day one which can be extremely entertaining to watch! Because they are large, robust and docile, ducklings are particularly suitable for younger children.

We are also looking forward to our visit to Oaks Farm next week. We will discuss the farm animals we see on our trip and how they are cared for. We will also look at the uses of the farm machinery.

Letters and Sounds sessions will continue to be taught daily and your child's individual sounds and high frequency words will be in their red folders. We have completed Phase 3 as a class and after some revision of this we will be covering Phase 4 which has more focus on hearing all the sounds in slightly longer words to produce more accurate writing as well as blending the sounds successfully for reading. Please choose/change your child's reading book with them as often as you wish. If you feel that your child ever needs a new set of sounds or words, in addition to our checks, then please just let us know. Please could you continue to read with your child daily and record any reading within your child's red reading folder. Helping your child to recognise the high frequency words within books and general text will help to make these words secure.

The **Reading** Early Learning Goal is as follows:

Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

The understanding element is helped greatly by encouraging your child to read back the sentence as a whole especially if many of the words needed to be sounded out. This and talking about what has happened in the story after your child has read to you will help to develop this area.

There will be a heavier focus on writing during the next half term in order to meet the expected ability for the **Writing** Early Learning Goal which is as follows:

Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

The children have developed the phonic knowledge required so the next step is to apply this in their independent writing. Please encourage this at home as their confidence will increase the more the children choose to write especially when able to experiment freely at home.

Towards the end of June, as your child will be coming to the end of the Foundation Stage, all Reception teachers are required to submit data to the Department for Education, as part of the Data collection information about your child, about their progress with the 17 Early Learning Goals. I will be sending more details about the opportunity to discuss these decisions with me early in June. The next profile sharing session is Tuesday May 1st 2018. This will give you an opportunity to see your child's progress at the present time. Please stay as you bring your child to school to look through their latest achievements together. If you can't attend this session then please do speak to me for an alternative time.

Please ensure a named P.E. kit is in school throughout the week. P.E. will normally take place on Friday for this term but we may also take good weather opportunities for outside P.E. so please ensure your child also has a change of plimsolls or trainers in their kit. We do have a number of items of clothing that are not named and this does make identifying the correct owners very difficult, so please check your children's clothing is all named.

Could you please ensure that your child has a sun-hat and a water bottle for use throughout the day. We spend a lot of the day using the outdoor learning environment so please apply sun-screen before school. If possible please apply a 'once/all day' sun-screen as this should provide protection for the whole school day, but alternatively please provide a named bottle for the children to apply again later in the day as necessary. The children will still need their wellies to enjoy the mud kitchen and water trays!

If you have anything you wish to discuss please feel free to do so from 8.45am each morning or at the end of the school day when I will be happy to speak to you. I look forward to seeing you during the term.

Mrs M Davies