

# Spring Term 2 Newsletter



Our topic for the second half term is '**Why do zebras have stripes?**'

We will be learning about Africa; it's tribal culture and similarities and differences to Britain and also the animals that live there.



## Personal and Social Development:



We are continuing to develop our self-confidence and self-awareness whilst still managing our feelings and behaviour and taking into consideration the feelings of others. The topic lends itself to looking at similarities and differences between ourselves and others. We will be reading many different books e.g. *Elmer*, *Giraffes can't dance* and discussing how it is ok to be different.



## Literacy:

We will continue to follow the programme 'Read, Write, Inc' which is developing our knowledge of single letter sounds and also how to blend and segment them to read and write words and phrases. Please do look at our planning overview (on the cloakroom notice board) or ask a member of staff about the sounds for the week, or if you have any other questions. Please continue to support your child by revising letter sounds and use the letter mat that was sent home. If you need a new one please ask.



Your child is also still welcome to choose and borrow story books for you to share and talk about at home from our 'lending library', accessible in class every morning.

School reading scheme books are being introduced gradually for those children who are blending confidently, please leave reading record books (with the 'reading book' inside) in the box in the cloakroom - we will change books on Monday and Friday. Please help your child to understand the story/text by asking them questions. Ask a member of staff if you have any questions.

## Maths:



We will be continuing to build on our knowledge of numbers. Please help your child by counting objects and matching them to corresponding numbers. We will be developing our understanding of more and less and linking this to the concepts of addition and subtraction, moving onto the use of + - = signs as appropriate. We will continue to discuss shapes and their properties. Patterns and measurement will also be a focus, linking in with the animals topic.



## Understanding the World:

This topic will link nicely with people and communities, particularly similarities and differences between ourselves and other cultures. We will be looking at traditional African tribal costumes, houses and tasting tropical fruits (linked to the book 'Handa's Surprise'). Our work will also involve looking at animals; their characteristics and their habitats. We will be contrasting the landscape of Africa with that of Edenthorpe/ Britain.



## Creative:

We will be using 'the jungle' as a stimulus for our role play area and making animal masks or finger puppets. Animal prints/patterns will be a focus for paint and pastel work along with drawing and painting different and unusual fruit. We will be making collage 'Elmer the Elephants' from recycled milk bottles.

## ICT:



We will continue to use the programme Dazzle and create animal patterns this will develop mouse control and tool selection. We will also access number and reading activities. Please do help us to assess your child's technical ability by using the 'star moments' cards - what can they control at home? Do they choose and play computer games? Can they operate a remote control to select things on screen? Etc.



We will also explore 'Beebotts' and learning how to control them by giving commands (forwards, backwards, turn) and making them go in the direction we want! We will be making pathways for them to follow.



## Physical Development:

There will be access to the outside area everyday where we can use large construction equipment (crates, etc) and also equipment such as hoops, quoits, bean bags, balls, etc. On fine days we will still be using the trim trail to continue to develop our self confidence.

During PE (**Tuesdays**) will still be focusing on different ways of moving in and around space. We have learned how to carry and use small apparatus, e.g. benches and mats, safely and will continue to work on and around them - jumping and landing safely, understanding the importance of space. We will be adding larger apparatus too; learning how to balance and perform short sequences of movement.



A key focus will be about understanding the effects of exercise on our bodies and the benefits it brings for healthy lifestyles along with other aspects of being fit and healthy e.g. plenty of sleep and eating healthy foods.

Please help us by remembering to send your child to school with their PE kit (black shorts, white t-shirt) every **Tuesday**.



Other aspects of physical development will include fine motor control or 'Funky Fingers' e.g. threading beads, using scissors to cut more accurately. We will continue to develop correct letter/number formation, through 'Read, Write, Inc'. Please help us to ensure that your child is developing the correct pencil grip (we call it 'froggy fingers' in class').

## Notices/ things to remember;



Please bring PE kits on Monday and take them home again on Friday.

**Our PE time hall slot is on TUESDAY.**



The children will have access to the outdoor area on a daily basis, whatever the weather.

We provide waterproof coats and trousers for all children to use but **please provide your child with a pair of wellington boots** (please write their name inside) so that they can participate fully in all of our outdoor investigational and messy play activities.

Additional/spare clothing must be sent to school with your child each day e.g. trousers, pants, socks.



If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to pop in and see us.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs McGlone and Mrs Barrass.