

**King Street EYFS Unit**

**Reception**

**Spring Term Newsletter 2023**



Welcome to the beginning of our Spring Term. We hope that you managed to enjoy some time with those you love at Christmas and made some wonderful memories together.

This half-term our theme is Cold as Ice and All you need is love! before moving onto Here comes the sun and Easter celebrations after the half-term holiday.

The term has started well with our first Welly Wednesday, exploring the wind and inviting some new nursery children into our school community this week. The children have been very kind and gentle in helping the new children settle in and we have a lot of children who want to be helpful and look after their new classmates which is lovely to see. Miss Starkie and I have been talking about how much the children appear to have grown over their Christmas break and have come to school with new skills and a real keenness to learn. We are very much looking forward to helping the children develop their skills further this term.

We have started our new ‘Reception Club Time’ where children can join in with Phonics Club, Drawing Club, Fine Motor Club, Colouring Club, Dough Club and Cutting Club to help to develop their skills in these areas. The children have loved their first sessions this week and the grown-ups have too!

You will hopefully see some of the new improvements to our outdoor space as they are added this term. As a team, we are constantly looking for ways to improve the learning opportunities for the children in our care and after discussions with the children n completing a thorough audit of the learning space, we are making improvements. We cn’t wait to see the children exploring their improved environment.

Phonics and Reading

For Reception children, Bug Club will continue to bring us new sounds as we work through Phase 2 of our phonics work. Keep practising that sounding out and blending!

We ask that you continue to return your child’s reading book on their day (the can be found on the sticker on the front of their reading diary). We do aim to change and return them on the same day, but please bear with us as this is not always possible.

Just a reminder that everyone can now access the Bug Club books and activities online using the details on the bookmark in your child’s book bag sent at the start of the school year. We do recommend short reading sessions every day. As well as sharing books, this might be looking for particular letters on packaging, looking for the odd initial sound e.g. peppers, plums, pears and broccoli. Lots more ideas for early reading skills can be found in the booklet sent out early in the autumn term.

Our visits to Spennymoor Library will continue with small groups every Monday afternoon.

Writing

We are teaching our children to write their names correctly using a capital letter at the start with the correct letter formation. We would be grateful if you could continue to encourage this at home.

Perhaps you could encourage your child to write the initial letter for items on your shopping list.

If your child finds writing tricky or uncomfortable, they need lots of chances to play with dough and block building as this will strengthen their hands ready for writing. Why not try sticking paper onto a vertical surface for mark-making or on the underside of a table for fun. Further information on physical development can be found here: <https://www.momtessoriway.com/post/understanding-our-bodies>

Mathematics

We will continue to use our White Rose Mathemaics with our focus on working with numbers to 10 in various ways to ensure that children are confident in understabding and using numbers as well as ordering, adding, subtracting and recognising them. We will also be looking at weight , simple measures and shape this term. A big part of our mathematical understanding is subitising – the ability too see the number of obejcts in a group. Examples of this can be found outside our garages. Why not try it when you’re out and about or looking at objects in your house? Encourgae children to talk about WHAT they see and HOW they see it.

Movement Monday

On Monday mornings we are introcuing more focused gross motor development sessions aimed at improving our ABC – Agility, Balance and Co-ordination. The activites that we introduce are designed that the children can continue to practise these skills independently throughout provision. We would be grateful if children could wear leggings or jogging bottoms on a Monday in readiness for this session. They will be asked to remove their shoes, socks and jumpers/cardiagans.

In the summer term, as the weather continues to improve, children will be asked to provide a full PE kit to prepare them for their PE lessons in Year 1. Further information will be sent before the start of the Summer Term.

Welly Wednesday

A reminder that our Welly Wednesday continues this term, in all weather conditions. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. They will need warm layers of clothing, a hat, gloves, a waterproof coat, and a change of socks. We do have some waterproof trousers available and spare hats, wellies and gloves in an emergency. We update our website Gallery each week with photographs and a description of our sessions.

Tapestry

Please ensure you log in to Tapestry regularly as it is our main platform of communication. You will get to see what your child has been learning and enjoying as well as any information about what we are going to be doing. If you have any issues logging in please let a member of the team know and we will try to resolve it. We also welcome any pictures or updates about anything that your child has been interested in or doing at home as anything that encourages your child to chat with us will help us to develop conversation and language skills.

Thank you all so much for your continued support. Remember we are here to support you and your family where we can. If you have any questions or concerns, you can speak to us directly, email us or leave a message with the school office and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Miss Whitfield and Miss Starkie