

**King Street EYFS**

**Reception Spring Term Newsletter 2024**

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 before moving onto Here comes the sun and our Easter celebrations after the half-term holiday.

The term has started well with our first Welly Wednesday, exploring the rain and the wind. We have invited 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 cfriends, 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 are continuing our 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 continue to 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 and completing a thorough audit of the learning space, we are making improvements. We can’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 3 of our phonics work. Keep practising that sounding out and blending at home, it really is making a difference!

We ask that you continue to return your child’s reading book EVERY day (Just a reminder that everyone can 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 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 begin this term with small groups on a Thursday 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 Mathematics with our focus on working with numbers to 10 in various ways to ensure that children are confident in understanding 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 to see the number of objects in a group. Why not try it when you’re out and about or looking at objects in your house? Encourage children to talk about WHAT number they see and HOW they see it. E.g. I can see a 3 and a 2 and that makes 5.

Movement Monday

On Monday mornings we are continuing more focused gross motor development sessions aimed at improving our ABC – Agility, Balance and Co-ordination. The activities 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/cardigans and change into their PE T-shirts.

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

Bikeability

We are excited to offer bikeability sessions at the end of February to Reception for the first time. Information has been sent separately. If you feel that you’ve missed this information, please let me know.

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 lots of 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.

Stay and Play

This term our Stay and Play sessions take place on Monday 4th March. There are two sessions where up to two grown-ups can attend. The morning session is from 9-10am, the afternoon session is from 1-2pm. The children really do enjoy showing their grown-ups their work and where they play.

Vision Screening

All of Reception children will have a vision screening check on the 26th February to check for any issues.

Lateness

Just a reminder that our doors open at 8:30am and then close for registration at 8:45am. We seem to have an increasing number of children who need to be brought through the main entrance. This can often be quite overwhelming for a child to enter a classroom where everyone is ready seated. Please aim to bring your child to our normal entrance before 8:45am so they don’t miss our welcome song and register with their friends.

Miss Whitfield and Miss Starkie