



Hillcross Primary School

Reception Newsletter

Spring 1

Happy New year!

The Reception Team would like to say a huge 'Thank You' for all the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes we received over the festive period. We would also like to say a big thankyou to Fletcher Trathern who kindly donated 2 sacks full of new toys as a Chrstimas gift to the Reception unit. I have no doubt that these toys will be gratefully received by the Reception children.

Following a discussion with all the children and taking into account their ideas, the focus for our topic this half term will be...

"To Infinity and Beyond!"

we will also be focusing on: superhero's, to include fictional characters as well as real life superhero's.

Within the first half term we will be using the superhero and villains theme to focus on elements of stories and story structure. This will include understanding a story mountain and the four main elements: opening, who and where?, why and what is happening? The problem, the resolution and the ending. Each week we will use one of these to be our theme and build up to creating a class story.

Launch: We will launch this topic within the unit across the first week with some surprises for the children to see each morning! This will hopefully inspire the children and launch the topic in a fun way.

Finale: to finalise all of our heroic learning we will be holding a Superhero dress up day. This will be on Monday 10th February. This is also the day of the FOH EYFS Spring Disco, after school, which will mean we can continue the theme after school with a Superhero themed disco. The children will then not be required to bring in a change of clothes for the disco, if they are attending.

The Home Learning Palette (on the school website: Reception, Home Learning) will offer lots of ways to extend and consolidate learning at home across the term. We will be sticking a paper copy of this into your communication books too.

We will also be exploring the world around us by discussing the roles of those close to us and the jobs of our 'real life super hero's' within our community.

Along with our topic learning we will be learning;

Maths –revision of counting, order of numerals and counting on from a given number to 10 and then 20. Exploring the concept of money, naming coins and using them to purchase items from our reception shop. We will also be looking at capacity and measuring length and height.

Phonics— will be taught daily with the children now split into focused groups. These groups will then target the needs of the children within each group. We will continue with the routine of learning our weekly key words on a Friday in our classes and then split into the groups for phonics across the beginning of the week. Please make sure you check the Spring term key word grid, on the reception page of the website, to see which words will be a focus this term.

Handwriting— we will continue to recap on the 'over letters' such as a/c/d/g/o/s/. The new focus will be the family of: r, m, n, h, as well as the tall letters: l, t, h, and k. Please remember that when we write a digraph we join the two letters together. This helps the children see the digraph as one shape and not two separate letters, however we do not join all of our letters in every word yet.

Writing— this term will continue with a focus on writing words and work towards writing a simple sentence. We will recap our understanding of a sentence, what punctuation is and how it is used in a sentence and how we need to include a noun and a verb.

Reading— the children will bring home two books each week to read to you at home. The skills for reading include blending of the phonemes to read words, moving onto reading sentences and being able to infer and deduce storylines and hidden meanings. Guided reading will focus on small groups daily and your child's reading day will be highlighted within your communication books.

Key words— We will continue to focus on reading by sight the key words and ensuring the children read this and do not segment. The new key word grid will be stuck into the communication book for you to use at home.

We will also be focusing on a range of books across the weeks, details of these will uploaded to the website over the half term.

EEXaT

Thank you to all the parents who have logged onto to EEXaT to see their child's learning Journeys. We appreciate all the wonderful comments made and join you all in being so proud of the children's achievements during their first term. If you have not yet accessed your EEXaT page please ensure you have signed the agreement via ParentMail so that we can publish your child's unique learning journey page. We look forward to sharing a new page with you at the end of this half term.

Donations Please!

Please could we ask for donations of the following things:

- Boxes of Tissues
- Newspapers
- Cardboard boxes
- Cardboard tubes
- Old Birthday /Christmas Cards
- Ribbon
- Bottle tops
- Yoghurt pots

Guinea Pigs

We are very happy for the children to bring in vegetables for the guinea pigs to eat daily. Thank you to all the children who are regularly bringing in treats for the Guinea Pigs, they really do appreciate this. Please let us know if you are able to help. We also need families to look after the guinea pigs over the school holidays.

Social Media Groups

Social media groups can be a very useful tool in helping parents stay on top of school events and in supporting each other through your children's school experience. However, at times, they can also be the cause of some anxiety and confusion. It can be unhelpful to speculate or pass opinions through a group; therefore, if you have any concerns or worries regarding your child in school, or the expectations we set, please come and speak to us in the first instance to clarify. This will reduce the number of parental queries we have, which enables us to maintain our focus on the children. Concerns or queries of a personal nature would still be discussed directly with the parent of the child concerned.

Entering and dismissing from school

Please could I remind all parents and carers that the beginning and end of the school day is a very busy time for the staff. Staff are there to ensure every child stays safe and is welcomed and dismissed from school in a calm manner. Notes and queries can be shared but staff will not be able to have in-depth discussions with parents at these times. There will be a Reception adult on the door to take any messages back to the keyworkers for you. Communication books can also be used, please signal to us that you have written in them so we ensure we read the note.

Please can all parents stand back, away from the doors, at the beginning and end of the day. It will also help to speed up dismissal if parents could ensure they are ready to receive their children and wave to staff as we dismiss. It is important we know you are aware we are sending your child to you to keep all children safe. We would also ask parents no to send your child back into school for forgotten items until we have dismissed all the children. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Uniform

Please can we remind all families that the school uniform includes:

- Black leather school shoes or ALL black trainers
- Maroon jumper or cardigan with the Hillcross tree logo (please ensure they are clearly named)
- White shirt or white/maroon polo t-shirt
- Dark grey school trousers, skirt or dress, Or black jogging bottoms

As the months get colder we would expect every child to have a coat at school as they will have access to the outside learning environment every day. Children are encouraged to wear hats, scarves or gloves when learning outside in the winter. Please could we ask that all items are **clearly named**. It would also be advisable for children to have a pair of wellies they can leave at school too.

PE Sessions

PE for Reception begins again on Monday 13th January.

An important part of the children's physical development is being able to undress and dress themselves, this is also an important life skill. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit into school in a separate bag, and do not send them to school dressed in their kit. We advise that tights are not worn on a PE day as they can be difficult to put back on. Instead we recommend trousers or long socks on PE days.

This term we will be developing our Gymnastics skills so PE will be completed inside and will continue to be completed in bare feet. All kit needs to be named clearly and stored in a Hillcross PE bag please.

PE uniform for gymnastics;

- White Hillcross logo PE shirt
- Black shorts (NO leggings)