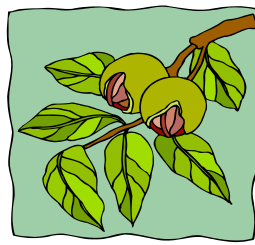
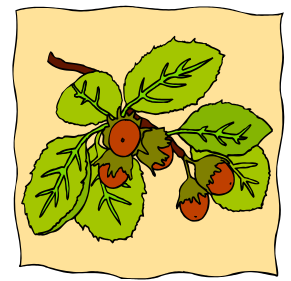


Reception



news



Spring term 2

The topic for this half term will be.....

COOL BRITANNIA!

Based on the children's ideas and suggestions we have planned this topic to focus on the United Kingdom. We aim to develop the children's awareness of the diverse cultures that make up our everyday lives in the United Kingdom. We will develop the children's understanding of mutual respect and individual liberty as part of our British Values alongside developing an understanding of maps, researching British sporting heroes, exploring British artists (and creating our own masterpieces) and find out about some of the UK's amazing buildings and architecture.

Please see the Hillcross website for the curriculum skills we will be teaching this year and also the Home School Communication books which will have more details of the weekly topics we will be looking at.

Some books and authors we will be studying this half term include:

Babette Cole—Prince Cinders; Michael Rosen—Bear hunt, Little Rabbit Foo Foo and some of his poetry; James Mayhew—The Katie book collection; Traditional Nursery Rhymes—Grand old Duke of York, Lavenders Blue; and traditional Fairy tales; Three Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears.

YELs

As part of the children's continuing literacy development this year we introduced the YELs! These are the Yearly Expected Learning skills that are a systematic progression of non-negotiable skills that the children need to learn. They build upon each other term by term and provide an excellent way of focussing the children on what they are already doing well and what their next steps should be to ensure children make as much progress as possible in their writing. Please log onto the Hillcross website and go to the Reception Home Learning section to read more about our YELs.

The YEL for this half term focuses on the use of capital letters. We need to ensure that the children are recognising when a capital letter is needed; at the start of a sentence, when we write a name and when we write the key word I.

Please continue to work on these with your child at home and discuss them when completing writing tasks or practising mark making.

Dates to Remember

27th Feb English Week—The whole school will be having a focus on writing and reading. We will be carrying out lots of reading and writing activities in school and having lots of fun!

28th Feb Pancake day—We will be making Pancakes in school this week!

1st March— St. Davids Day

Thursday 2nd March—Reflect Production workshop based on the story 'Punctuation Station'
The theatre company will be acting out the story that focuses on a family of giraffes and their journey, in which they find different punctuation. This workshop is being paid for through our school fund so no extra payment is needed from families.

Thursday 2nd March— Book Character dress up day. We will be asking all staff and children to dress up as book characters for the day. If they can bring in their favourite book too then that would be amazing!

Thursday 2nd March— Curriculum evening with a focus on Writing. Parents are invited to come along to visit the year groups across the school to see how we teach writing. It will give parents the opportunity to look at resources, speak to staff about the terminology used and discover more about the expectations for writing. No need to book—just come along.

Friday 17th March— Reception trip to Bracknell Discovery Centre. All children will need a packed lunch. Please consent and pay for this trip via Parent Pay.

Thursday 30th March— EYFS Easter Hat Parade— Main hall (more details on reverse of this letter)

31st March last day of term— school finishes at 1.30pm.

Book Dress up Day

As part of our whole school literacy celebration week we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book on Thursday 2nd March. We would love them to bring in the book to share in school too.

Uniform

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

- Black school shoes (no trainers, boots or canvas shoes)
- Long hair should be tied up and hair bands should be small and discreet (no big bows or clips!). Thankyou.

Donations Please!

Please could we ask for donations of the following things:

- Box of Tissues
- Newspapers
- Cardboard boxes
- Cardboard tubes
- Old birthday and Christmas cards
- Ribbon, buttons, bottle tops
- Yoghurt pots, margarine tubs



A Date for your Diary...

Please come and join us at The Early Years Foundation Stage

Easter Hat Parade

on

Thursday 30th March 2017

Hazelnuts & Half of Chestnuts– 9.15.a.m.

Walnuts & Half of Chestnuts– 2.15.pm.

This event will be held just before the Easter Holidays and will require **every child to wear an Easter hat or Bonnet they have made at home.**

There will be prizes for the top three most popular hats!



School Website

Please don't forget to check the school website for weekly updates from Reception, these include photos of the children and work that your children have been completing in school. Home learning tasks are uploaded weekly.

Library Books

All the children will visit the school library every Friday afternoon. They will be able to access a range of books including fiction and non fiction. These books are for your child to share with you at home, to read the story together or to discover facts you didn't know. Please make sure your child returns their book on a Friday. Unfortunately they will not be able to take a new book until their current book is returned.

Lookout Discovery Centre trip

All three Reception classes will be visiting the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell on

Friday 17th March.

Full details are on the Hillcross website under 'letters to parents'.

Please make your contribution via parent pay.

All children will need a packed lunch in a small rucksack. All lunch should be in packaging that can be thrown away. Children will need a bottle of water and an extra drink for lunchtime. The centre is partly outdoors so a warm and waterproof coat is needed.

If you are able to come along and help supervise please let us know so we can carry out a list 99 as soon as possible.

PE Sessions

PE for Reception takes place on a Monday.

(We are no longer having the AFC Football session on a Tuesday)

As part of their physical development and learning it is an important life skill for the children to learn how to undress and dress themselves. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit into school in a separate bag and does not come to school dressed in their kit.

PE uniform includes:

- Black shorts or tracksuit bottoms (NO leggings)
- White Logo PE T-Shirt
- Black plimsolls (inside) or inside (clean) trainers
- Maroon Hillcross sports Jumper (with sports logo)

All kit needs to be named clearly and stored in a Hillcross PE bag.

Thank you.