

St John's Walham Green C of E Primary School

Information for Parents – How to help your child

Year Group: Reception

Term: Spring 1

Class Teachers: Mrs Peters and Miss Cook

Date: 12 January 2018

REGULAR TASKS

Personal, social and emotional development: This term, our focus will be on developing the skills to recognise and name our feelings, and begin to talk about the consequences of our behaviours. We will be using the school-wide RULER method to support children to do this. We will also be teaching the children 'the underwear rule', which supports the Early Years Statutory Framework. More information can be found in the school newsletter.

Physical Development: This term, our weekly PE lessons with Mr Welch will continue, where we will focus on negotiating space and begin to develop ball skills. We will also be thinking about how diet and hygiene practices effect our health, and will have a visit from the school nurse to talk about oral hygiene.

Handwriting: We will continue to work on using a correct pencil grip and ensuring letters are correctly formed and regularly sized, using the *Read, Write Inc.* rhymes to help us. We will be doing more practice in trying to place our letters neatly on a line. The children will play lots of fun games to encourage the development of gross and fine motor skills.

Communication and Language: We will be listening to lots of stories and children will be encouraged to respond to what they hear in full sentences. We will also be developing our skills in following multi-step instructions, and playing lots of games to develop our working memory. Children are encouraged to bring in objects for 'show-and-tell', linked to our monthly theme, that they can talk about with their peers. Please look out in your home/school diaries to find out when your child's turn is.

Literacy: We will be responding to stories through talk, drama, drawing and writing. This term our *Power of Reading* texts include *On Sudden Hill*, and *Here's A Little Poem*, where we will be developing our awareness of rhyme and alliteration. We will continue to focus on applying our phonics knowledge to write phonetically plausible words and simple sentences.

Reading: Please find time to read with your child every day for around 10 minutes, away from the TV or other distractions. Please ask your child questions about the book they are reading, to develop reading comprehension and an understanding of story structure. If your child is reading picture books, you should use the yellow 'word boxes' sent home weekly to help your child practise their sounding out and blending skills.

Phonics: The children will continue in their daily phonics lessons to learn new sounds following the *Read, Write Inc.* scheme. Please remember to practise sounds with your child, whose sound book will be regularly updated with new sounds as they are learnt.

Library: Following a brief closure, our library will open again this term, and children will visit once a week to choose a book according to their own interests. This book can be taken home, but must be returned to school every Thursday.

Maths: We will be looking at addition and subtraction, grouping and sharing, and doubling and halving. We will also look more closely at shape, pattern and money. We will continue to have a focus on refining our counting skills and our ability to recognise and order numerals to 20. Please work on these essential skills at home with your child.

Understanding of the World: We will be exploring the technology available in class and its various purposes. We will be learning about different celebrations including Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day and Easter. We will also be planting seeds and thinking about growth, decay, and changes in the natural world.

Religious Education: We will be thinking about who Jesus is and what makes him special to Christians. We will consider how Christians celebrate Easter, and pay a visit to St John's church. The children will attend collective worship twice weekly.

Expressive Arts and Design: We will be exploring a range of media, including paint, collage and dance, to create simple representations or capture responses. The children will be involved in the process of choosing what our role-play areas will be to encourage imaginative role-play. They will have a weekly music session with our music teacher, Mrs. Ostler.

You are always welcome to come and see us with any questions or if you would like further advice or ideas for how you could help your child at home. Thank you in advance for your support.

Class Teachers:

Mrs Peters and Miss Cook

Head of School:

Ms Wightwick