

**Pear Class News**

**Summer 1**

Firstly, a big welcome back to our final term in Reception! Although for the foreseeable future we will be continuing to deliver Pear class learning virtually - with lots of help from you fantastic parents, we really do hope that we will have our Pears back in reception very soon. In order to try to ensure our children are accessing the topics we would be covering in school, we will continue to upload activities onto the blog on a weekly basis, but do ask that you try to engage with this material as this final term is a chance for the children to not only consolidate all of their prior knowledge, but also demonstrate any gaps in learning and understanding so that we may work to address them now. If you haven’t already done so, please do send us some examples of the children’s work and continue to use the learning journals to document home achievements. Our email address are as follows:

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This term we will be working on our main topics: ‘Growing and Minibeasts.’ The children will be encouraged to explore the outdoors that they have access to, either during your daily exercise walks, or, if isolating- what they can find in their own gardens. We will be encouraging them to create their own ‘minibeast lands’ and spend lots of time outdoors observing the changes during springtime, planting and gardening if possible - although we may all have to improvise somewhat in the current climate!

In addition to this, we will be focusing on ’Jack and the Beanstalk’ as a smaller topic, connecting to all areas of the EYFS to further explore growth and change as well as developing our critical thinking skills to consider elements of right and wrong and how we might be able to get the golden egg out of the castle without waking the giant!

**Read, Write, Inc**

Read Write Inc will continue to be covered on the blog weekly. We usually do these sessions Monday- Wednesday so it would be helpful if you could carry on this routine to allow for consistency if and when the children return to school.

Last term the progress during RWI sessions was very pleasing and we do hope that the children have been continuing to learn their red and green words as well as utilising their sounds writing captains, or even better, sentences! The children will now all begin their Set 2 sounds and there will be three new sounds per week for the children to learn. Learning new sounds will expose the children to new words and allow them to use ‘Fred fingers’ to decode the unfamiliar words. Again, I thank you for your continuous support and encouragement, especially with practising the RWI sounds at home. Most children are now familiar with ‘red words,’ words that are just read and not sounded out and blended together. We will be setting weekly sentence challenges where the children have to utilise a red word, their weekly sounds and a topic based word.

**Mathematics**

Following last half terms target of ensuring that most children gain a solid understanding of numbers to 20, this half term we focus upon using those numbers to practise and extend our addition and subtraction skills. As of our daily maths sessions we will be solving everyday problems that require us to add and subtract. In addition to this we will be rapidly recalling one more and one less from a given number and continuing to learn how to complete addition and subtraction calculations in the form of stories! We will also be exploring data collection and using this information to record in graphs and tables. The children will also be learning how to tell the time to the hour and learning new mathematical vocabulary based around capacity, size and weight.

 **Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing**

Our mini beast topic will offer lots of scope for reading, discussing, finding out and creating. We’ll enjoy using non-fiction texts and the internet to find information to answer questions and explore stories such as *Jack and the Beanstalk* as a basis for written, oral and creative work. We will be studying other stories such as *Aarggggh Spider, Supertato and What the ladybird Heard* to encourage creative, imaginative and descriptive vocabulary in our writing and as the basis for fun and activity led learning at home.

**The World**

This term we will be continuing to explore spring changes as well as other topics such as ’minibeasts, growing/planting and new life.’ These topics are all about investigation and we will be able to use simple classification to compare and identify the differences between minibeasts. We will use this information to write simple facts about them to be used to create a minibeasts fact file, for example.

Within our ‘growing and planting’ topic we will begin to understand some common changes that occur when we plant crops and seeds and again see growth of new life—plants and insects. Linked in to this we will also be planting our own beans to link in with our focus story (Jack and the beanstalk.) The children will be set tasks to plant beans and watch them grow – we could share our measurements on our class page to see whose beanstalk grows the quickest and tallest. If you are having trouble getting hold of any items we set for the home learning challenges, please contact Mrs Horne-Smith via email and she will do her best to get these items to you safely so that your child is able to join in – we know how difficult it is at the moment and appreciate some people will be shielding/working/just too busy looking after other children so we would like to help as much as possible.

**Creative Work**

There will be opportunities for lots of painting and collaging as we keep to our focal theme during our creative work this half term. We will be drawing and painting a range of observed garden flowers and mini beasts, using warmer colours to create spring scene pictures and use selective spring images and materials to make collages. We will use our afternoon sessions to design and make 3D mini beasts, beanstalks and sunflowers from junk modelling. As the weather gets a little warmer and we go on many hunts looking for signs of spring, new life and minibeasts we will be doing most of our learning in the outdoor environment. We are hoping the children will also use their musical talents to create music using garden and kitchen tools as well as a magical harp!

We will try to ensure that our activities utilise products we think you may have at home, but again, if you are having trouble getting hold of anything please do not hesitate to get in touch.

 **The Physical Stuff**

This half term the children will be digging, scraping up leaves and using these opportunities to help keep your outside environments tidy and also exploring signs of life on your daily walks.

Although we will not be having formal PE lessons, it is still crucial that children carry on building up their gross motor strength through skipping, jumping, ball skills and moving in different ways – crawling along the floor like worms and flying like ladybirds. We would encourage the children to create an outdoor stage and move to lots of different types of music like the spider does in *Aarggggh spider* and consider how their heart rate changes the more they move.

Last term, the children were becoming so independent when changing for P.E, it would be fantastic of they continued to dress themselves in the morning, focussing on zips and buttons as well as putting their own shoes on the correct foot.

Finally, this term we would be checking that the children’s fine motor skills are more controlled. Correcting improper pencil grip and letter formation is vital so that bad habits are not formed. If you are unsure how to explain this to your child, there are many videos online that will walk you through the process and terminology suitable for this age range.

 **Home Learning**

 Many thanks to all for your support with home learning.

 It’s really lovely to see how our classroom learning can be extended at home and I urge you to try to add something into a home learning book each week, but also to reiterate how important it is that you share their work with us on the blog and enable your child to see their classmates and what they have been doing. Children who make contributions to their home learning books really enjoy sharing their work with the rest of the class and it’s an excellent opportunity to progress communication skills by explaining and describing work. Short videos sent to our emails can be uploaded onto our blog of your children describing what they have been doing at home. We totally appreciate that this is a very stressful and busy time but we emphatically believe that this engagement is crucial during reception as it ensures children do not feel out of depth when they do eventually return to the school setting and also allows children to feel connected to their classmates.

Thank you for all of your support – most of all have fun with your children as that is how we all learn best!

With kind regards,

***Beth Whitlow, Laurie Horne-Smith***