

Homework

We encourage all children to read to you **every day** at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record, or on Tapestry, and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. A weekly challenge will be posted on Tapestry each Friday for you to complete together at home over that weekend and through the week.

Expectations in Year R

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The way in which we learn and our motivation is hugely important. In Class R we focus on these characteristics using our 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'. Each characteristic has an animal associated with it and so the children strive to become ... Proud Peacocks, Persevering Parrots, Go for It Gorillas, Creative Chameleons, Choosing Chimps and Slinky Linky Snakes!

Class rewards

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. A filled sticker chart means the children choose a small gift from our prize box! Each week a child will be selected to be the star of the week and will be celebrated in our whole school assembly.

Our hopes for the children

At the beginning of the year we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this first half of the spring term in Class R we will work on these following things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- ◆ Continue to learn a poem to be performed in front of an audience
- ◆ Take part in celebrating World Book Day
- ◆ Share their learning environment with a parent
- ◆ Explore the local area (Wadebridge/Camel Trail) - (linked to our History work on the local area)
- ◆ Enjoy a class trip to Pentire Head (including a ride on a BIG bus)
- ◆ Welcome a visitor to our classroom (the dentist!)

Remember to please get in touch if you have any queries or concerns. With very best wishes,

Mrs A Warren



Year R

Class Booklet - Spring Term 2

Teacher: Mrs A Warren

Teaching Assistant: Mrs L Hutley



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term in Class R! This booklet will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this coming half term, although some things may change as we go along. Our main topic for this half-term is called 'Home is Where the Heart is' and will build on our work during Spring 1. We want the children to begin to understand and appreciate the beauty of the place in which they live and develop their ideas of how they can help to look after it. The children will also gain an understanding of how places change over time and how places around the UK have similarities and differences.

Literacy and Communication & Language

Within Literacy we work on a range of skills including; Listening, Vocabulary, Questioning, Sentence and Sentence Building, Story-telling, Non-fiction texts and Phonics. We will share a range of texts to support our themes on Spring and Looking after our world. Our class text will be 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson and we will also continue with our 'DEAR' book 'The Adventures of the Faraway Tree' by Enid Blyton. We will also learn a poem for recital to an audience: The Little Elf-Man.

The children will also continue to benefit from:

- * Individual reading to an adult
- * Daily phonics lessons
- * Handwriting practice (initially focusing on the correct posture and pencil grip)
- * Regular library visits to choose a new library book.
- * Texts to support all areas and activities within the learning environment
- * Small group guided reading sessions 3 x per week

Mathematics

The children will continue to apply the counting principles when counting to 9 and 10 (forwards and backwards). They will represent 9 and 10 in different ways; arranging 9 or 10 items into small groups will support the children to conceptually subitise these larger numbers and explore their composition. (E.g. I know it is 9 because I see 3 and 3 and 3). Children will notice that a 10 frame is full when there is 10 and they will use 10s frames, fingers and bead strings to subitise groups of 9 and 10.

The children will continue to make comparisons by lining items up with 1-1 correspondence to compare them directly or by counting each set carefully and comparing their position in the counting order. As the children's sense of number develops so does their knowledge of where each number sits in relation to other numbers. They will understand that when making comparisons a set can have more items, fewer items or the same number of items as another set. They will begin by comparing 2 quantities and progress to ordering 3 or more quantities.

The children will explore number bonds to 10 using real objects in different contexts. E.g. there are 10 apples. How many in the tree and how many on the ground? 10s frames will be partially filled so that we can work out how many more we need to make a full ten.

We will also explore and manipulate 3-D shapes through block play and modelling. Children will be prompted to think about which shapes will stack and which shapes will roll and why that is. We will introduce the names of the shapes and provide opportunities for the children to explore similarities and differences between them.

As always our maths learning will be supported by quality texts such as:

How do dinosaurs count to 10?, Cockatoos and Magnolia, Black dots, Mouse Shapes, The Princess and the Pea, Pattern Bugs.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw

This term our theme is called 'Healthy Me' and we will be learning about the importance of keeping our minds and bodies healthy and ourselves safe. We will find out about healthy food choices and how things like getting a good night sleep, keeping our bedrooms tidy, cleaning our teeth and exercise all contribute to a healthy and safe lifestyle.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop the children's fine motor control and coordination. We will develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination, and agility through activities that use our body weight to push and pull. We will also develop our confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities involving a ball.

Through small group sessions we will continue to develop our handwriting so that it starts to become fast, accurate and efficient.

Understanding the World

As part of our work on comprehending the world around us we will focus on:

- ◆ Family - The children will be encouraged to talk about where they live and how they access the local area with their families.
- ◆ The Past - The children will have the opportunity to learn about our local area and what it was like in the past.
- ◆ Geography - We will continue to learn about our local area and use it within our learning. We will learn about the things we can do to ensure that we look after our world and our local area.
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - The children are always encouraged to explore every activity with their senses. What does it feel like? What can you see? What can you smell? What can you hear?
- ◆ People - As always we will learn about different people and about each other. We continue to develop understanding and respect for all people at all times.
- ◆ Our RE work this half term will focus on Christianity and the importance of Easter to the Christian community.

Expressive Arts & Design

As part of our work in this area of development we will focus on:

- ◆ Art and Creativity - We will find out about the techniques used by a different artist (Gustav Klimt) and compare it to the styles of art that we have already encountered by Mondrian, Kandinsky and Van Gogh. In particular we will explore the piece of artwork 'Tree of Life' and try out the different techniques used to create it.
- ◆ We will also work collaboratively to design and create an Easter Garden. We will have a look at some photos of Easter Gardens that already exist and share our ideas for what ours could be like. We will use our design to create the real thing in our outside area and add to it each week as we learn about The Easter Story.
- ◆ Music - We will listen to and use a piece of music called 'No Place Like' by Kerry Andrews. The children will listen to this new piece of music and describe what they hear, practise starting and stopping in relation to the skills they have already learnt in terms of conducting. They will make their own 'Home' sound piece and think of new words for a song. They will also help write a story with sound effects.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - The children are immersed in a language-rich environment where during play they are encouraged to talk, express their feelings and respond to a range of stories and music. We will use a range of familiar and new stories within our play and encourage the children to act them out, adapt them and create their own. We will also learn the poem 'The Little Elf-Man' and we will perform it for an audience. The children will also learn a song to perform for you all at the end of the half term.