

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 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 to do so remains 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, although our celebration assemblies (and indeed all our assemblies) this year will continue to be online events!

We are looking forward to continuing our learning journey with the children through this first half of the summer term and of course start to think about their transition into Year 1.

Please do let us know if you or your child has any particular concerns or questions; a problem shared is a problem halved!

With very best wishes,

Mrs Warren



Year R

Class Booklet—Summer Term 1

Teacher: Mrs Warren

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Hutley



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the summer term in Class R! This booklet will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this coming half term (although I am sure some things will change as we go along). Our main topic for this half-term is called 'How do your legs help you?' Towards the end of last half term we enjoyed hunting for minibeasts and decided that we wanted to learn more about them so I wonder what we will find out! We will link this to ourselves; how and why are we different to insects? What do they need all those legs for?!

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. Through texts such as Snail Trail, Spinderella, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Yucky Worms we will explore new words, how to write sentences, how to retell stories and how to retrieve information from non-fiction texts. As well as this the children will benefit from:

- * Individual reading to an adult, at least twice weekly.
- * Daily phonics lessons
- * Handwriting practice
- * Word lists to support tricky words and new sounds
- * Regular library visits to choose a new library book.

Our written work for this half term will focus on using our phonics and our writing toolkit to record simple sentences. The children will create their own non-fiction books about minibeasts, adding to it each week.

Mathematics

In maths we will be building and identifying numbers to 20 (and beyond) using a range of resources. 10 frames, number shapes, towers of cubes and bead strings will be used to support the children to see that larger numbers are composed of full 10s and part of the next 10. We will also investigate spatial reasoning having opportunities to select and rotate shapes to fill a given space. We will work with arrangements of shapes and continue to develop our understanding and use of positional language. Later in the half term we will also work on addition and subtraction; one more and one less. We will use the following texts to support our learning:

- ◆ Snail Trail: A Journey Through Modern Art
- ◆ One Moose, Twenty Mice
- ◆ Mr Gumpy's Outing
- ◆ The Shopping Basket
- ◆ Jack and the Flum Flum Tree

Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw

This term our theme is 'Relationships' and we will be talking about how to build constructive relationships, express our feelings and consider the feelings of others and think about the perspectives of others.

The children will learn about the role they play within their families; what jobs do they do to help out at home. We will also learn about how to make friends, solve problems that may occur with our friends and discuss ways that we can be a good friend.

We will also refer back to our topic from last half term, 'Healthy Me' and build on this by thinking about how amazing our bodies are; this will link to how different we are to insects ... what do they need all those legs for and why don't we have wings?!

Physical Development

Fine motor skills, control and coordination will be worked on daily within our 'Funky Fingers' sessions. Activities such as dough disco, threading, using tweezers and a range of small equipment will all help to develop muscles in the hands and fingers. This will feed into our handwriting sessions that will take place 3 x per week.

Each day we complete a 20 minute PE activity. This half term we will be focusing on Functional Movements (Bending and Stretching), Movement Concepts (up, down, forwards, backwards, left, right)), Aesthetic Movement (speed and agility) and Manipulative Skills (catching). We will also continue to complete our Active Mile every Friday.

As we are completing Physical Activity each day your child is welcome to attend school in sporty bottoms and trainers and their school t shirt and jumper on their top half every day.

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 their role within their families and the jobs they do to help at home.
- ◆ The Past - We will talk about how insects have evolved and how they have changed in order to survive.
- ◆ Geography - We will explore the natural world around us and habitats for the minibeasts we are learning about. How can our environment support biological diversity? What do insects do and why should we protect them?
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - Whilst exploring outside we will continue to encourage the children to describe what they see, hear and feel. The children will begin to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them and this half term we will definitely be on the search for signs of summer!
- ◆ People - The children will talk about somewhere that is special to themselves, saying why and begin to recognise that some religious people have places which have a special meaning to them.
- ◆ Science - Investigating minibeasts and their habitats plus lifecycles. This half term we will watch and discuss the process of caterpillars to butterflies!

Expressive Arts & Design

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

- ◆ Art and Creativity - The children are always encouraged to explore and develop new skills and materials. We will complete a range of art activities relating to our topic of 'How do your legs help you?'. We will continue to develop our skills in observational drawing and also try out some new techniques such as collage, sculpture, pebble art, painting and modelling. We will also learn about and recreate the work of artists such as Matisse and Louise Bourgeois.
- ◆ Music - As part of our music lessons this half term we will be using a piece of music by Ralph Vaughn Williams called 'Lark Ascending'. The children will have the opportunity to explore the difference between high and low pitch, use different instruments and respond to music with drawing. We will also make up words for a new song.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - We will be listening and responding to music and developing story lines in our play. 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.