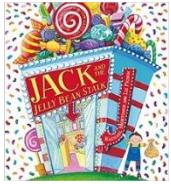


Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to you all. We hope you had a wonderful break over the Christmas period and are looking forward to the term ahead! We are very excited to have Mrs Linden-McCarron join our fantastic Early Years team, who will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays.



This term, we have based our teacher directed learning on the theme of Traditional Tales. Our key text is Jack and the Jellybean Stalk by Rachael Mortimer, which we will be using as an enticement for writing and exploring new vocabulary. We will also be looking at Transport and Maps, using the children's interests from their previous experiences as a springboard for new learning; We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen, will be our key text.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen, Helen Oxenbury



Phonics will continue for both Ash and Saplings, using the Essential Letters and Sounds programme.

Saplings will start to enhance their learning through the exploration of letter sounds, and Ash will continue to strengthen, develop and acquire new sounds. Thank you for your support with reading and sharing stories at home; it makes such a positive impact on the children's engagement and enjoyment of reading.

We will be having mindful yoga sessions on Tuesdays for this half term. These sessions are an opportunity for the children to think about and start to recognise their feelings and how they can manage these big emotions, if needed.

We will continue with Forest school on Friday mornings and also offer daily outside play. Please ensure that your child comes to school with **named** cold weather clothing, including hats and gloves, and a scarf / snood. It would also be a good idea to include an additional pair of socks in your child's spare clothes bag.

We are hoping to restock our making station early on in the term so that the children can enjoy getting creative with their cutting, joining and problem-solving skills! The most sought-after items that we would be very grateful for are:

- Cardboard tubes / toilet roll tubes / kitchen roll tubes / wrapping tubes
- Small cardboard boxes (no bigger than a teabag box)
- Plastic bottle lids / straws / pot lids
- Interestingly-shaped recycling such as cardboard fruit trays (it's fun to see what these turn into!)

A few things to mention:

We ask for a £5 voluntary contribution each term to help us with the costs of materials and objects specific to the children's interests. Your contributions last term helped us to refresh our busy fingers resources, which are being enjoyed each morning to strengthen fine motor skills. We would like to enhance our water and sand areas this term and contributions will go towards this.



We really appreciate your postings and commenting on your children's activities on tapestry. Your input is very encouraged. If you have any questions about Tapestry, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us about it.

Please check to see if the names in clothing is still visible and has not fallen off or come off in the wash. It is also very useful to have named spare items of clothing too; thank you for your help with this.

As a reminder, we are a nut-free school so please remember this if you are giving your child a packed lunch.

We are really looking forward to the rest of the term ahead!

The Early Years Team