



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Ducklings and Goslings Classes



Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We would like to thank you for all for your generous cards and gifts, which were very much appreciated and enjoyed. We hope you all had a restful break and are looking forward to the new term.

English

In English, we will continue to help the children develop their understanding of narrative, poems and non-fiction texts. Our texts will be linked to our new topics and will be taught using our 'Talk for Writing' scheme. We will spend a lot of time writing for different purposes, using the children's knowledge of phonics to spell common CVC words. In reading, we will continue to develop children's blending skills whilst moving on to Level 2 of Floppy's Phonics which incorporates some tricky vowel blends, so any extra practice you are able to do at home will really help the children to progress.

Maths

In maths, we will be recognising and writing numbers 0-10 and understanding the composition of those numbers. We will also be ordering numbers, saying one more and one less than a given number, and answering simple addition and subtraction questions. We will learn how to measure capacity and compare the masses of different objects. We will also learn how to order times, including days of the week and months of the year. We will investigate some properties of 2D and 3D shapes and identify simple patterns.

Topic

Our first topic is 'Why do zebras have stripes?' which focuses on the exotic animals found in Africa. It includes learning about the term 'camouflage', different animal prints and patterns, and the similarities and differences between adult and baby animals. We will also learn about some of the different countries in Africa and touch upon some similarities and differences between attending a school in Kenya or a school in London.

Our second topic is 'Starry Night'. This project explores the differences between day and night, and teaches about the importance of a good night's sleep. It will help the children learn what happens whilst they are asleep, including learning about nocturnal wildlife.

RE

Our first topic is 'Why do Christians believe Jesus is special?' We will learn that Christians believe Jesus loves everyone, was born as a human incarnation of God and performed miracles, including healing sick people.

Our second topic is 'Why is Easter special to Christians?' where we will learn about the events of Holy Week, as celebrated by Christians, Christians celebrate Easter, and what they believe happened during Easter.

PE

In the first half of the spring term, Mr Oakley will focus on gymnastics with elements of dance incorporated. The children will be learning basic shapes, balances and counter-balances, as well as fundamental jumps and rolls. We will also be exploring the gymnastics apparatus to develop confidence in climbing, jumping and balancing.

In the second half of the spring term, we will focus on team games where we will introduce structured games. The children will learn both the core skills, and the rules to tag rugby, football and dodgeball.

Key dates

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the admin team.

- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February: half term - school closed
- Monday 20th February: children return to school
- March: Parent Consultations - details to follow
- Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day
- Thursday 9th March: When I Grow Up Day
- Friday 17th March: Red Nose Day - details to follow
- Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April: Easter holiday
- Monday 17th April: INSET day - school closed
- Tuesday 18th April: children return to school as usual

*You can find the above dates and more on our calendar [here](#)

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, plimsolls etc.
- **PE:**
 - **Tuesdays** class PE – children to wear school uniform with trainers
 - **Thursdays** PE with Mr Oakley - children to wear their correct PE kit to school - this is a plain house coloured t-shirt, black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms and trainers
- Please ensure reading records, reading books and library books are brought in on **Mondays** to be changed
- Parents and children are encouraged to check book bags for letters each day
- It would be really helpful if you could send in tissues for the class, please
- We ask parents for voluntary contributions of **£5 per term for consumables** (play dough ingredients etc.)
- Please continue to check Tapestry to see your child's learning journal
- We would like to remind parents that the school has a no jewellery policy, and earrings should be studs only, please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- Please also ensure that your child wears **black shoes** to school. If trainers, these must be completely black with no bright logos, flashing details or coloured laces/soles.
- If your child has long hair, please make sure it is tied back.
- Please send a named water bottle into school daily.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

If there is anything that you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to talk to us after school, or make an appointment via the school office.

Miss Greenwood and Miss Abernethy
Reception Team