



Spring 2024 Dormice Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! We hope you've had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for the new term ahead. Below are some reminders, useful information and an overview of our learning for the Spring term.

Staff

Teacher: Miss Selwyn

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Line, Mrs Jamieson, Mrs Palmer.

General Information

- Each day your child will need to bring in their red book bag, a labelled water bottle and a coat.
- Snack will be available throughout the day or children can bring in their own **healthy** snack, ideally fruit. Please no sweets or chocolate.
- Reading records will be reviewed weekly and changing of books will be on a **Thursday**. Please ensure your child is using their coloured reading folders to maintain their condition. Lost or damaged books will result in a £5 fine. Thank you.
- PE days will continue to be on a Wednesday with Mr Elton and Friday with Miss Selwyn and Mrs Line.
- Show and Tell will continue to be on a **Monday** afternoon.

Expected Homework

- Reading – the children will bring home a different Little Wandle book each Thursday to read at least 4 times over the week. Please complete the reading record after your child has read. This provides a dialogue between home and school about their progress and next steps in their learning.

Optional Homework

There will be a menu of termly optional homework tasks on the class web page. All activities are linked to our learning in class so it's a great way for your child to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects we're covering. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks and they can bring in their work to celebrate. Alternatively, you can upload any work they have produced to Tapestry.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Please contact the office via admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk to arrange a time for a phone call or a meeting. We're looking forward to what this next term has to offer in this year of firsts for our Dormice.

A big thank you for your continued support,

Miss Selwyn

Phonics

This half term we will be moving on to our Phase 3 journey where we will begin to introduce the children to more complex graphemes through digraphs and trigraphs. We will also be learning more tricky words which are words that cannot be sounded out but must be read automatically.

In the second half term, we will not be learning any new sounds or tricky words but consolidating and embedding the sounds we have learnt to decode new and unfamiliar words. We will review our phase 3 graphemes and begin to read words with double letters, longer words with two or more digraphs, words ending in -ing and compound words.

Pathways to Write

We have a books-based approach to the teaching of writing and we choose books that will inspire, entertain and excite our children. This half term's reading can be found on our class page. We ask that you don't read these books in advance as it's lovely to discover them together. It's also important that we can develop their prediction skills which is difficult if they already know the book!

Core text for Spring 1: **Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek** by Jonny Lambert which will lead us to create our own non-chronological report on crocodiles.

Core text for Spring 2: **The Pirates are Coming!** by John Condon which will inspire us to structure and write a letter.

Alongside this, we will be delving into the world of poetry and continuing to create a language rich based environment through other reading materials.

Maths

Counting backwards 10-1

Ordering numbers 10-1

Splitting and recombining sets of objects 6-9.

Religious Education

We will be finding out about other cultures such as Chinese New Year and sharing in traditional celebrations during this time. Jack the Dog will be supporting us with more stories All about Jesus including recalling key aspects of the Easter story.

PE

Our PE kit is **red school logo PE shirt/plain red t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and pumps/trainers. Football kit should not be worn.** This half term we will be focusing on gymnastics. We will be developing our balance, agility and co-ordination and learning how to balance and move around/on the apparatus in the hall under control. In the second half term, we will be exploring different striking apparatus and attempt to hit a ball

towards a given direction. On your child's PE day, they should come to school in their kit and remain in it for the whole day.

Understanding the World

Past and Present

History of Chester Zoo and the Mottershead Family – now and then. Differences and similarities.

Celebrations – Easter

Spring Changes

Sharing a range of stories about grandparents

People, Culture and Communities

Chinese New Year

Baptism – wonder why a minister pours water on babies in a baptism.

Ramadan/Eid

Where I live (Tarporley).

The Natural World

Exploring the plants in the surrounding natural environment (snowdrop and daffodil growth)

Naming and describing animals that live in different habitats (nocturnal)

Lifecycle of a crocodile

Describing different and contrasting environments.

Playing and exploring in all seasons and weather changes. Observing living things.

Learning about the Earth, Sun, Moon, Planets and Stars.

Map reading and creating own maps using signs and symbols.

Exploring shadows and rainbows.

Making objects from different materials (floating and sinking experiments)

Exploring how objects move in water and how the wind can move them.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials

We will explore these two key questions to develop our artistic skills.

Spring 1 - How can we explore colour?

Spring 2 - How can we explore materials and marks?

Being Imaginative

Singing and performance skills linked to our class assembly

Traditional songs and nursery rhymes

Pirate shanties

How you can support at home...

- Read, read, read! Please continue to read as much as possible with your child to develop their fluency (not sounding out). A useful tip to enhance children's comprehension skills is to use the starter sentence 'I know that because...' When reading at home you might get the answer "I don't know" to a question but keep encouraging your child to reread to support these useful skills. They do know it, but may need more practise. Rereading for fluency is key!
- Continue to support writing in different contexts. For example, writing in birthday cards, forming letters in glitter/sand/flour or using the laminated whiteboard to practise the different actions for each letter.
- All the activities on the optional home menu can be downloaded from our class page. We'd recommend encouraging your child to choose from the menu – the activities can be done in any order and at any point during the term – so they have opportunities to deepen their understanding and practise their skills.
- As always, you are more than welcome to extend your child's learning at home. Please check the blog for weekly information and suggested activities for home learning
- Remember to upload any 'WOW' moments your child has to Tapestry. We love to see this!
- Please continue to see the weekly blog to keep up to date with the latest information regarding what your child has been learning each week.