



Dear Parents/Carers,

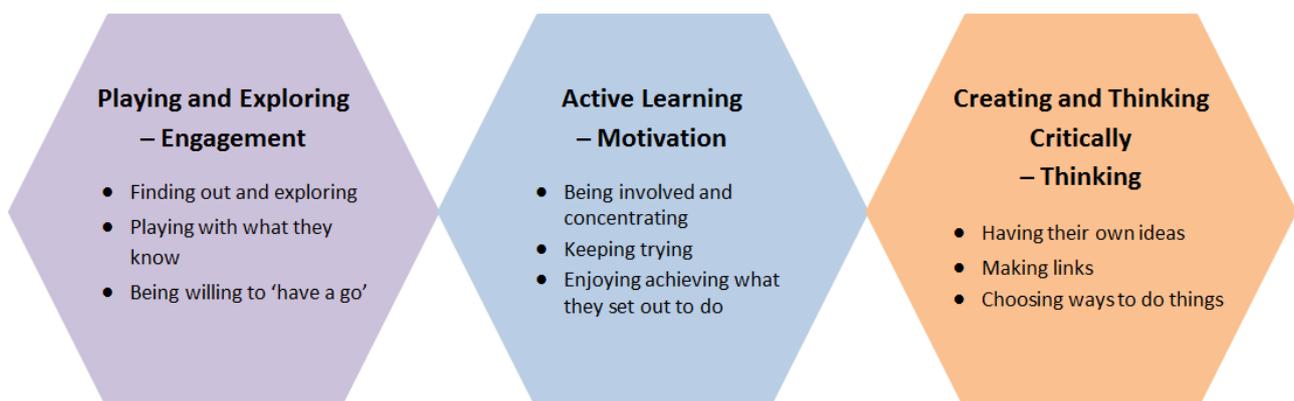
Welcome to a very exciting Term 5! We hope you enjoyed your two week break! After a very successful change of book bag regime in Term 4 we are still encouraging the children to be independent by handing important information from their book bags to their class teacher. However please don't hesitate to talk to the class teachers about any issues you wish to discuss at the start or end of the school day. Thank you to all the parents who have encouraged their children to walk into the cloakrooms by themselves. This will help your child to be prepared for Year 1 as children walk to their classrooms on their own.

We would also like to say a massive THANK YOU for all your continued support. We are very grateful for all the money you have helped raise for Year R from the sponsored bunny hop; the money raised will go towards a fabulous finisher for the end of Term 5.

Connector – Our connector for Term 5 is 'Traditional Tales'. Our **stunning starter** for this will be an in-school production of the story 'Each Peach, Pear Plum' performed by Year R adults. After the show, each classroom will become the scene for a traditional tale and children will have the opportunity to create their own stories based on the traditional tales they know. The **fabulous finisher** for this term will be the special visit from a Story Teller in Herne Bay, paid for with the sponsor money you raised.

This term we will be inviting you to come and watch your child and their class in a class assembly. These will be a 10 – 15 minute showcase of the children's learning. Please see dates and times in 'Dates for your diary' section below.

Your child may come home this term with a 'Characteristic of effective learning' certificate. This is a new reward that we are trialling which will be awarded to the children who have shown an aspect/s of our school values perseverance, learning, kindness, co-operation and responsibility or features of the Characteristics of effective learning. The Characteristics are taken from the Early Year Foundation Stage Curriculum and are the skills that we believe make children good learners.



Literacy – This term we will be working with children to create character descriptions using skills that they have learnt previously such as adjectives (describing words) and nouns (the name of an object/person/place). We will continue to develop children's writing skills to create sentences and use their skills to write short stories. As our connector relates to storytelling we will be encouraging children to work with adults to create their own stories using the helicopter story method. This enables the children to create their own story line with the help of an adult to scribe if necessary, but also encouraging the children to take ownership and contribute by writing their own sentences and then finally finding/making props to re-act their story to the class.

We would like to thank you for helping your child practice their common words. This is making such a big difference as children are able to read these words in more complex texts and use them in their writing.

Read Write Inc - The children are assessed for RWI every 6 weeks to ensure they are learning at the correct level and their learning is progressing. The children are continuing to learn the sounds that letters make and how to put the sounds together to read words (blending) or separate the sounds (segmenting) to write the words. If you have any questions regarding your child's journey through RWI then please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher.

Maths – This term we will be consolidating children's learning in number through ordering, adding single digit numbers, and taking single digit numbers away. We are continuing to practice our correct number formation which we teach through fun activities such writing in sand, foam, whiteboards, chalk, paint bags using a number formation patter. (See below – How can you support learning at home.) In Year R we are always up for a challenge and we make time to help children use their skills through problem solving. The children respond well to the exciting problems they have to solve and this allows us to know that the skills they have been learning can be applied and are embedded.

Continuous Provision - Learning through play - During Continuous Provision we encourage children to show and use Characteristics of Effecting Learning. We feel that the characteristics help to enable children to be good learners,

Dates for your Diaries –

Reading morning: Weds 26th April 8.40-9.00am.

This is a fantastic opportunity to share a story with your child in their classroom. The last reading morning was very popular and successful and the children adored reading to their parent/carer. If you are unable to attend we welcome Aunties, Uncles, Granny's, Grandad's too!

Class assemblies:

Starfish Class 9.00am 28th April

Seahorse Class 9.00am 5th May

Dolphin Class 9.00am 12th May

Octopus Class 9.00am 19th May

Parents Evenings:

Appointments with your child's class teacher will be available on:

Tuesday 25th April 1.30 – 5.30pm or Wednesday 26th April 4.00 – 7.00pm.

Dazzle days: 17th, 18th, 19th May.

Parent book look: 25th May

This is an opportunity to come in to the class and look with your children at the learning they have been doing over the term.

End of Term 5: Friday 26th May

Term 6 begins: Tuesday 6th June

using skills that can be utilised throughout their whole school life. We encourage the children to be independent and take responsibility for their learning in Continuous Provision. This means that they are free to choose what they would like to do and source their own resources with school adults supporting learning through questioning, offering their knowledge and scaffolding play.

How can you support learning at home?

Speaking and Listening: This term it would be a great to talk about fairy tales/traditional tales and how the stories are formed. Discuss how the story begins, the different characters in each story and how the different stories end – Is there always a happy ending? Perhaps your child might like to make up their own verbal story, encouraging your child to become an author! We would love to hear any story telling so please share these with your child's teacher.

Reading: Please continue to practise the common words that are being sent home with your children. This will continue to support their learning in reading and writing. Common words are the most frequent words that the children will read. When you are reading stories with them you could ask your child to read the common words that they know when you come across them in the story. This will help the children to remember them and reinforce the importance of learning these words.

Writing: Please continue to practise letter formation on the sheets your child brings home from RWI. Correct letter formation using the RWI patter is really important as it supports your child as they move up the school and begin joined up writing. You can support your child in writing words with those specific sounds that they may know. Make a story with your child and encourage them to write sentences/words/parts of the story and we can share them with the class!

Maths: Please continue to support your child in recognising numbers and practice writing them correctly. The Year R number formation patters are shown below.

- 0- Around and around we go, that's the way we make zero!
- 1- Straight line down, and then you're done, that's the way you make a 1.
- 2- Around , back, cross the rail road track 2!2!2!
- 3- Around the tree around the tree that's the way you make a 3
- 4- Down and over and down once more that's the way you make a 4
- 5- Make his hat, make his back, make his tummy round and fat.
- 6- Slide down and then around no tricks! That's the way you make a 6.
- 7- Across the sky and down from heaven, that's the way you make a 7
- 8- Make an s and do not wait, climb back up to make an 8
- 9- A loop and a line, that's the way you make a 9.

Connector: 'Traditional Tales' – As our connector is Traditional Tales it would be lovely if you could support this by reading and sharing lots of different Traditional Tale Stories. Stories such as *Cinderella*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* are all traditional stories. We will be exploring vocabulary related to storytelling and tales. Perhaps discuss special features such as opening

sentences 'Once upon a time', what happens in the beginning, middle and end; could you make up an alternative ending?

Art and Music: This term we are looking at the artist Kandinsky; in particular we will be learning and practicing our water colour skills.

We do lots of singing and playing instruments in our classrooms and through our music area in Continuous Provision. We also have a fortnightly singing assembly. One of the songs we will be singing is:

'When goldilocks went to the house of the bears'
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oErNu_XUThI



2 build a profile: We will be sending updated Learning Journeys out at the end of the term. We would love to see home experiences too! Please upload pictures of your children's learning to: inbox@2simple

Responsibility is our focus value this term. We will be thinking and talking about how we can be responsible. Please discuss responsibilities at home and at school. Ask your child how they take responsibility for their learning?