

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

Spring Term 2020

Welcome back to this new year at Waterhouses Foundation Stage. This term our theme will be 'What happens when I fall asleep?' and we will be thinking about night time and what happens. We will think about questions like the ones below:

Why are there are stars at night?

Does everyone go to bed at night time?

Do people work at night time while we are asleep?

What do you think about when you go to bed?

Do you have dreams?

We will look at the patterns of stars, how the moon changes shape and the beautiful colours of the Northern lights. We will be thinking about how the rules at school help us with our learning and link this with how good bedtime and sleep routines at home can have a positive impact on our health and our energy levels. We will contrast day and night time activities and look at the different animals that are awake during the night time. Getting creative we will use our fine motor skills to create a Northern light picture, we will work in a group with our friends to make constellations and use battery operated tea lights to light them up. We will make star and moon mobiles using sequins and glitterery pompoms. We will listen to lullabies and relaxing music and discuss how we feel.

The main texts that the children will be sharing are:

'How to Catch a Star', 'Lost and Found', 'The Way back Home' all by Oliver Jeffers; 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy; 'Night Monkey, Day Monkey' by Julia Donaldson and Lucy Richards and 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. We will be sharing short stories, non fiction texts and rhymes linked with night time.

How you can help your child at home with this term's theme:

The night time can be scary for some children but it is the fear of the unknown - why not embrace the night together and do some stargazing together after dark, either from your window, garden or even better find a rural location with minimal light pollution. You could help your child identify stars and constellations by researching via the internet (always stay with your child when they use the internet to find out interesting facts) or by visiting the local library and finding information from non fiction books. You could make a sleep and dream diary - record what time they go to bed, what time do they wake up? Write down any dreams your child remembers, especially if it is a happy dream, for your child to share at school with their friends. Do any of your family work during the night time? If they do ask them to talk to your child about working at night time.

Question · Explore · Give · Succeed

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During Literacy learning the Reception children will be continuing with daily phonics learning from Phase Three of Letters and Sounds and Phase One listening activities. The children will continue to use their phonic knowledge to decode simple words and learn reading strategies to support their word reading and comprehension skills. There will also be focus on rhyme and alliteration. The children will continue to learn how to orally segment words and write them and have weekly spellings to practise at home. They will also practise their handwriting of single letters and write sentences with a capital letter, finger spaces and full stops.

Nursery children will continue to access Phase One of Letters and Sounds and will begin to look at the letters and sounds from the alphabet (Phase 2 of Letters and Sounds). All children will practise writing their names daily.

In our maths learning Nursery children will be singing counting songs and rhymes, which will help to develop their understanding of number, such as 'Five Little Snowmen'. They will play games which relate to addition and subtraction, use number vocabulary such as number names one - ten, more than, fewer than and how many. They will find hidden numbers and count objects ensuring the children are counting 1 object at a time. Nursery children will be challenged with mathematical questions like: if 1 more frog jumps into the pool how many frogs will there be altogether. They will be encouraged to record making marks and symbols to represent number eg: 2 dots = 2 etc.

Nursery children will be thinking about 2D shapes and Reception children will be looking at simple 3D shapes.

Reception children will be recognising numbers and counting to 20 and above from any given starting number and down from 20/ 30 and above. We will be learning to count in 2's to 20 and in 10's to 100.

Reception children will be placing numbers in order and saying which numbers are 1 / 2 more or less.

We will be using objects to add, subtract, and count on and back to find the answer. Your children will be learning addition facts and number bonds to 5 / 10.

Reception children will be looking at patterns, weight, time and simple money.

All children will practise forming their numbers correctly and Reception children will need to practise their 'Under the Sea' targets at home.

In RE we will be thinking about the text 'Puddles Lends a Paw'. This story is about people who help others and we will be thinking about who helps us both at school and at home. We will read stories from the Bible and think about what happened to Jesus after he was born?

Our value for the first half term is 'Forgiveness' and we will listen to stories about telling the truth

We will continue to have circle time activities where we will focus on our speaking and listening skills. We will model how to talk in full sentences and use tenses. We will also have a large focus on taking turns and how to lose gracefully! This half term we will also focus on how to handle situations and negotiate with others.

Reception children will begin swimming after February half term (letter to follow) and will need their PE kits in school on a Thursday, as they will start Gymnastics during their P.E. sessions.

JUST A REMINDER THAT ALL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED:

This includes things like socks, pants, vests, shoes, hats and gloves!! If everything is named, we will save a huge amount of time that is wasted when searching for your child's lost clothing.

Hair: We would like to request that all long hair be put up for school in an effort to help prevent the outbreaks of head lice, which are so common.

Jewellery: Children should not wear any jewellery to school.

Finally, please could we remind you to let us know if someone other than the person who normally collects them will collect your child from school?

If you are wondering what kind of activities to do at home to help your child's learning here are some ideas:

Writing sounds

Adult say a sound and child to write it

Name writing

I Spy

Letter formations

Adding small numbers together

Taking away

Counting up to 5 / 10 / 20 and above

Counting down from 30 / 20 / 10

Counting in 2's - 20, counting in 10's to 100 (Reception)

Matching numerals with objects

Missing number washing line game- hang up numbers, child to close eyes and adult to take a number away- what is missing?

Number Splat (Online game)

Learning the alphabet

Coin recognition

Shape recognition

Writing simple words

Useful information for parents to know....



Milk and fruit: Each morning the children receive a drink of milk. The government provide 1/3 of a pint free for each child each day until they are 5 years old. Children also receive a free piece of fruit - if you would like your child to have toast the cost this term is 20p a slice.

Reception: Home-learning



Reading is our key homework focus.

Please read with your child on a regular basis (reading books are sent home twice a week). Please write a comment in their home school link book.

As well as reading your child's school reading books with them also spend time with your child sharing favourite rhymes and stories - if you do not have access to many stories at home why not join the local Library or come into the Ladybird classroom in the morning and choose a book to share from home from our class library?

High Frequency Words and sounds: In addition to reading books, we also send home words and sounds. Some of them will be on key rings and you can help your child to blend and sound out these words and practise their sounds.

Other key words will be recorded in their Phonic home learning books for them to read and write.

When the children know all of these words, they will be able to read and write simple sentences much quicker and more fluently meaning they will gain more confidence and pleasure from reading and writing.

Please also complete the phonics and spelling home learning and practise your child's 'Under the Sea' targets regularly at home. If you have any concerns please speak to one of the EYFS team.

Thank you for all your continued support it really makes a difference to your child's learning.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Hulme, Mrs Bradbury, Miss Hall and Ms Fowler