



Spring Newsletter Reception

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another exciting half term in the Early Years Foundation Stage! We are looking forward to a busy and engaging few weeks of learning. This half term our theme will focus on **traditional tales**, with a special focus on *The Little Red Hen*, alongside exploring different materials in Science and developing our maths skills.

Read on to find out what your child will be learning and how you can support them at home.

What We've Been Learning

English: Traditional Tales and Writing Skills

This half term we will be focusing on the traditional story *The Little Red Hen*. The children will:

- Retell the story using repeated refrains to build fluency and confidence.
- Sequence the events of the story.
- Explore the characters and discuss their actions and choices.
- Begin to write simple sentences linked to the story.
- Write simple lists and instructions (for example, ingredients and steps for making bread).

We will continue to develop sentence writing by:

- Saying sentences out loud before writing.
- Using capital letters and full stops.
- Listening carefully to sounds in words.

How you can help at home:

- Read *The Little Red Hen* together and encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases.
- Ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Encourage them to write simple words or labels linked to baking or farm animals.



Phonics and Early Writing

We are continuing with Set 1 Special friends Sounds in Read Write Inc., focusing on:

- Saying the correct sound for each letter.
- Using Fred Fingers to spell simple CVC words (e.g., cat, dog, hen, red).
- Forming lower-case letters correctly.

How you can help at home:

- Practice spotting sounds in everyday words.
- Encourage your child to use their fingers to count the sounds in short words.
- Practise letter formation using chalk, paint, sand, or playdough to make it fun and engaging.

Maths

This half term we are focusing on:

- **1 more and 1 less** within 10
- **Addition and subtraction within 10**
- Beginning to understand and learn **number bonds to 10**
- Using practical equipment to support understanding (counters, cubes, number lines)

The children will:

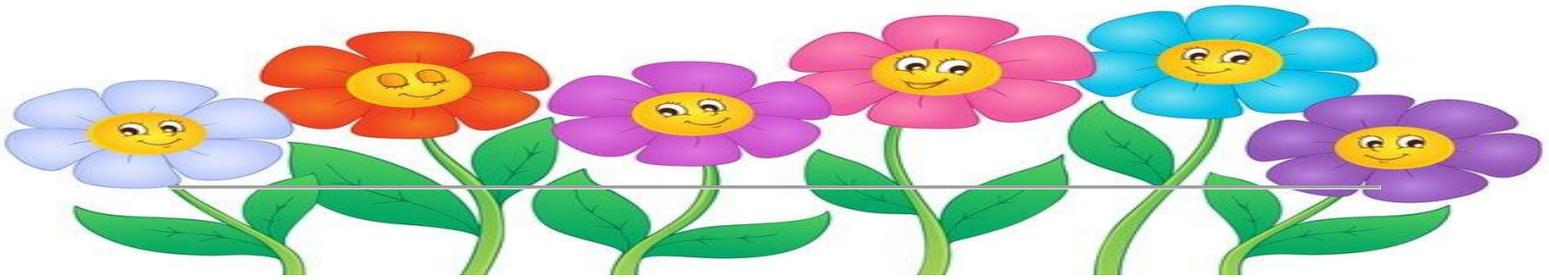
- Find 1 more and 1 less than a given number.
- Solve simple addition and subtraction problems using objects and pictures.
- Begin to recall number bonds to 10.

We will also be learning number bonds to 10 using this song:

🎵 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4P8EcPjOCc>

How you can help at home:

- Practise finding 1 more and 1 less using small objects such as toys or snacks.
- Ask simple addition and subtraction questions during everyday activities (e.g., “You have 3 grapes and I give you 2 more. How many now?”).
- Watch and sing along to the number bonds to 10 song regularly to build fluency and confidence.
- Practise quick recall of pairs of numbers that make 10 (e.g., 6 and 4, 7 and 3).



Understanding the World – Science: Exploring Materials

In Science, we will be exploring **different materials**. The children will:

- Identify and name common materials (wood, plastic, metal, fabric, glass).
- Explore and describe how materials feel (hard, soft, rough, smooth).
- Investigate which materials are suitable for different purposes.
- Carry out simple hands-on investigations.

How you can help at home:

- Talk about the materials used in everyday objects around your home.
- Encourage your child to describe how objects feel.
- Ask questions such as, “Why do you think this is made of plastic?” or “Would fabric be good for making a spoon?”

Physical Development

Gross Motor

- Developing balance and coordination.
- Moving safely in different directions.
- Taking part in team games and activities.

Fine Motor

- Cutting and sticking carefully.
- Strengthening finger muscles for writing.
- Improving pencil grip and letter formation.

How you can help:

- Encourage cutting, drawing, colouring, and threading activities.
- Practise simple baking activities to strengthen hand muscles (mixing, kneading dough – just like the Little Red Hen!).



People, Communities and Places

We will also:

- Talk about where we live.
- Begin simple map work and use positional language (near, far, next to).
- Observe seasonal changes in our local environment.

How you can help:

- Go on local walks and talk about what you see.
- Discuss different buildings and what they are used for.
- Look at simple maps or draw a basic map of your route to school.

Important Reminders

- **PE Day:** Thursday – please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear.
- **Water Bottles:** Please send a labelled water bottle each day.
- **Labelled Clothing:** Ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.

How You Can Help at Home

- Read together every day.
- Encourage your child to retell stories.
- Practise letter formation in fun ways.
- Work on number bonds to 10 using the song provided.
- Practise 1 more, 1 less, addition and subtraction in everyday situations.
- Talk about materials you find around your home.

Contact Us

We are always here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to us at drop-off or pick-up, or contact us through the school office.

We look forward to a half term filled with learning, discovery and fun!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Brotherton and the Reception / Year 1 Team