

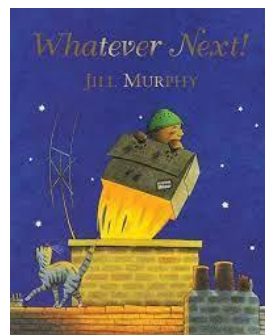
November 2024

Dear families,

The weather is growing colder and darker, and the leaves have begun to fall, and it is finally autumn. We are so excited to carry on with some great learning for the rest of the term.

This term we will be learning around the theme of **Infinity and Beyond!** Our theme will explore space, travel and transportation. We will imagine and recreate what it would be like in space and on the moon. We will share places we have travelled to, where we would like to go, and how we could travel there.

We will be reading the story, 'Whatever Next' which is about a bear that travels to the moon with its teddy. The children will plan their own trip to the moon with their own teddies, backpacks, space boots and helmets so watch this space!



During our Understanding the World sessions and in our provision, the children will learn all about celebrations this half term like Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will continue to learn that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.

We will also be reading 'The Three Little Pigs.' We will be exploring what happens in the story, where the story takes place and the different characters. The children will learn about sequencing the story talking about the beginning, middle and end. We will investigate different materials for building and compare them to determine which would make the best house in today's world versus the past. We will do this by reading the story, dressing up as the characters and acting the story out. We will continue with the 'Big Write' on a Friday where children can showcase their ideas through drawings and initial sounds.

Changing Weather:

As the weather has begun to change for the colder and wetter, we ask that the children come to school in appropriate clothing to ensure that they are able to continue learning outside. Please ensure that your child has a water-resistant coat that they can put on independently and have begun to learn to do up themselves.

Phonics

Phonics teaching is a big focus this half term and we will be supporting your children to become great readers and writers. The children will be bringing some letter formation and words to read and practice at home. They have been given a Phonics Folder to keep their formation sheets and reading words.

This half term we will also be sending home reading records for children to take home every day. As well as reading their library and phonics book, documenting that in their reading record, they can also read a book from home.

Please make sure your child brings their Phonics Folder and reading record to school every day.

Every child is on their own journey with reading and some children are nearly ready to take Phonics books home. Remember that even if your child does not have a phonics book, they can easily be supported at home by reading signs and symbols in the environment. For example, when walking around at home you could play "I-spy" with the first sound of the word. You can also do a lot of oral blending of words, for instance, 'Can you find a p-e-n?'.

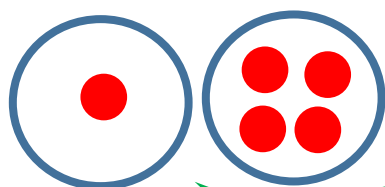
The next stage is to find these sounds written in the environment. Children often notice signs and symbols in the environment, so next time you go for a walk, ask if they can identify supermarket names or read familiar labels.

Maths

In addition to this cross-curricular learning, we will start exploring numbers in further depth by counting amounts, finding one more and 1 less, and applying our knowledge through problem-solving. We enjoy solving a good problem!

Every week we will have a 'number of the week'. The children will learn all about the number and at the end of the week they will solve a problem independently.

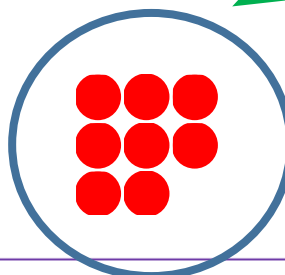
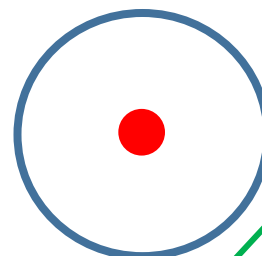
As we start to delve deeper into learning about numbers, encourage your children to play counting games. For example, line up 5 objects and ask how many different ways can you make 5? Show off your counting fingers, touch and count.



"0 + 5 = 5,
1 + 4 = 5,
swap it
around,
5 + 0 = 5,
4 + 1 = 5."



Ask questions and help your child by talking to them about what they notice. Make it fun and remember you can use any objects to count.



"0 + 9 = 9,
1 + 8 = 9,
swap it
around,
9 + 0 = 9,
8 + 1 = 8."

Library Books and Reading

'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go' — Dr. Seuss

One of the most important things you can do with your child is to **Read, read, read!** Please take at least 10 minutes to read with them every night. This is so important for your child – it will help to develop their communication, language and concentration skills, and fosters curiosity and creativity.

The children will be borrowing a book from the library every Tuesday. Please make sure your child has their book folder with them. The children will change their books every **Tuesday**. So please make sure that you return the book to the class by **Monday**.

Here are important days of our week:

Tuesday – We will encourage all of the children to borrow a book from our school Library. Please make sure your child has a book bag or a bag with them.

Thursday - The children will be having PE with a sports coach each week. The children will not need PE clothing at this point of the year. The coach will be developing the children's coordination and gross motor skills.

Friday- Every Friday we will cook or bake something as a class.

Friday – Celebration assembly where we celebrate what has happened in the Early Years. Your child will get a chance to be 'star of the week' and get a certificate. Also, one child from each class will take Summer or Bluey home for the weekend. During our Celebration assembly each class will have the opportunity to win the attendance trophy for their class and keep the trophy for the week.

School Trips

This half term we will be going on a local trip to the **Mudchute Farm** to see the seasonal changes of Autumn and of course the animals.

Nativity Show

This year the Early Years will put on a Christmas performance told in a different way through songs and actions. Every child will dress up and take part in the show. We will let you know soon what role your child will play and either give you a line to rehearse or song actions to practice. The children's performance will be on Friday 13th December; time and place will be shared closer to the time.

Additionally, we will be holding a costume workshop so parents/carers can come along and create costumes and props for our play. This will be held in our school hall on Thursday 28th November at 9:30am.

Please support your child by practising at home especially if they have a talking part as we want our children to show resilience and confidence during the final performance. It will be a highlight and enjoyable experience for all to watch!

Home Learning

Home Learning is an effective tool used to support the learning in the classroom and to help children develop into independent learners. In EYFS, children learn through experiences, hands on learning and play. Home Learning will focus on developing and supporting communication/language skills, understanding of the world, and physical development. Home Learning will be set as projects where the children will be able to learn or create something to share with their classmates. This half term's home learning will be:

- **The Moon**: spend time learning some facts about the moon, such as: how it changes through the month or what it is like on the moon. How would you travel to the Moon?
- **Spend time looking at the night sky**: What can you see? Can you see any star constellations? Can you draw or create a picture of the night sky?
- **Explore materials from the Three Little Pigs and build a house**: Design a plan and then get building! – Which materials would make the best house? What makes straw, stick or brick the best material to build with? How did you build your house? What steps did you take to make it?

Learning Journeys – Tapestry

This term we will be focussing on capturing children's communication and learning through tapestry. We are excited to share what we have been collecting with you in the upcoming weeks. You will be provided with an email, password and a step by step on how to use the platform. We will upload photos of your child, capturing their learning in school, so please enjoy looking at the photos and videos. Also, feel free to add your own photos if you wish, it is always wonderful to see the learning that goes on outside of school too.

Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Lots of water to drink.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth **every morning** and **every night** before bed to stay healthy.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EACH DAY so they can drink freely throughout the morning.

Important events / diary dates:

- Blue whale trip to Mudchute farm – Tuesday 5th November
- Tiger class trip to Mudchute farm – Thursday 7th November
- Diwali Party – Friday 8th November
- Anti Bullying Week 11th –15th November
- Festival of Arts week 11th- 15th November
- Coffee morning with school nurse – Tuesday 12th November
- Children in Need- Friday 15th November

- Reception phonics workshop- Friday 15th November- 9am
- Parents Evening –
 - Tuesday 19th November
 - Wednesday 20th November
- Christmas costume workshop- Monday 2nd December 9:30-10:30am
- Christmas performance (Show day) – Friday 13th December (time TBC)
- Christmas Party- Wednesday 18th December (come to school dressed in party clothes)
- Last day of term- Friday 20th December at 1pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Reception Team