



Emersons Green Primary School

Red Class Newsletter ~ Spring Term 3

Dear Parents / Carers.

Welcome back to Term Three at Emersons Green. We hope you all had a relaxing and happy Christmas break. On behalf of all of the Red Class team, a very big thank you for all the kind gifts and cards that you gave to us.

For **Communication, Language and Literacy** we will be looking at different bear books, both fiction and non-fiction, and using the texts to develop our writing and reading. We will be continuing with the Letters and Sounds programme: the children have now completed Phase 2 of Letters and Sounds and we have started Phase 3. This phase will teach another 25 sounds, most of these will consist of digraphs (two letters which make 1 sound e.g. 'ch'). They will continue to practice blending sounds to form words and segmenting them to spell words. Please continue to use the Jolly Phonics sheets you have to practice the sounds learnt so far with your child and also to practice the high-frequency and tricky words in their booklets.

A reminder for Home Reading Books! I will continue to send home reading books for you to share at home with your child. Most of the books the children are reading have words to read. Don't worry about getting your child to read every word necessarily. Remember to practise the key comprehension skills. For reading words in books you could encourage your child to recognise tricky words by sight and to sound out unfamiliar words using their 'phoneme fingers'.

The school reading books are organised into colour bands. The children are encouraged to choose their own book from their colour band - this means they may choose the same book twice or even three times - this doesn't matter - children gain a lot from revisiting favourite books just like adults! When you share any book at home with your child I would be grateful if you could write the title in your child's reading record and write a comment or just initial it. In order to encourage your child's reading potential, please aim for your child to have a reading experience each day at home. This could be sharing a school reading or library book with you/ siblings/ grandparents/ childminder, listening to a bedtime story or story CDs, independent looking at books, comics, puzzle books, magazines etc.

If your child has not changed their book for a few days, please put a note in their home-school-diary and I can encourage them to select a new one! Thanks for your support!

For **Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy** we will be continuing to count, read and write up to 20, make repeating patterns, and begin to add and subtract using appropriate vocabulary. We will also be learning about money - beginning to recognise the different coins and using them in our 'shop'.

We will continue to send home the **Building Learning Power** puppets: Stickability Stu, Percy Problem Solver, Connie Collaborator and Curious Colin - the puppets have enabled the children to really embrace these key learning skills. Thank you for your support in completing the diaries with your children, it is always great to share home and school experiences. The Building Learning Power concepts have been so successful in Reception, we have now rolled out the concepts to the whole school.

Our P.E day is still Friday so please make sure your child has appropriate, named P.E. kit in school. We will continue with our Forest School and creative activities (shared with Year 1) on Tuesday

afternoons, if you can still help or would like to help with these please put a note in the home-school-diary.



Please can every child have a pair of wellies to keep in school - we do work outdoors 'whatever the weather'. We will be going onto the field at various times during the term and wellies are essential! Many thanks!

We would also like to invite you to 'Stay and Play' with your child again this term. This proved to be a great success last term so it would be great if you could make it! As you all know, space is premium in our classroom so if possible, please leave younger siblings with a friend or relative. Again, we can only invite 6 children's parents in at a time (each group will be given a set date). These sessions will take place on a Thursday morning, please come into class with your child after signing into the office and will finish at 9.30.

Here are the dates:

BumbleBees Group - 9th February

Butterflies Group - 12th January

Grasshoppers Group - 19th January

Ladybirds Group - 26th January

Spiders Group - 2nd February

Strengthening links between home and school learning

Please remember to continue to complete the Wow! certificates. This will enable us to celebrate your children's exceptional achievements, linking home and school. Please aim to try and complete one or two a term, if possible. Here are some examples of achievements you may wish to share:

- Creating an amazing painting/ collage/ sculpture/ model.
- Making music.
- Riding their bike without stabilizers.
- Climbing to the top of a climbing frame.
- Using a switch or computer to communicate.
- Logging on and off to a computer.
- Using scissors/ staplers/ tongs/ knives/ cutters/ drills with control and safety.
- Investigating an interest e.g. trains, snakes, butterflies, Ben 10, princesses etc.
- Counting, adding or subtracting in 'real life' situations e.g. paying for an item in a shop-counting out the correct amount of money and working out how much change they needed.
- Reading - labels, signs, library books, newspapers, comics, information books/ internet.
- Writing - their name, labels, captions, stories, instructions.
- Performing in front of an audience (family members or a wider audience).
- Showing an awareness of their own and other cultures and beliefs.
- Getting themselves dressed for school/ swimming/ football for the first time.
- Showing kindness and consideration for someone else.
- Is engrossed in their play or an activity for a long period of time.

Occasionally, we will also send home a photo of your child at school. This will give you an insight into the types of activities and experiences your child is having in Red Class. We would be grateful if you could talk to your child about what they were doing in the photo and write down what they say in a speech bubble then send it back to school to be added to their Learning Diary.

Now the children have completely settled confidently into Red Class we would like to invite parents in. If you would like to help in class with reading/ filing/ creative activities and can offer a regular weekly slot please put a note in the home-school-diary telling me when you are available. If there is a lot of interest from parents we may have to pull names out of a hat!

The children have had a great first week back and have been full of energy and holiday news, what a positive start to the new term! As always please feel free to come and see us after school if you have any worries, or alternatively grab Mrs Pope first thing in the morning.

Happy New Year!

Mrs Beth Moorman & Mr Karl Hemmings