**Foundation Stage Spring Term Newsletter**

**January 2019**

Happy New Year everybody! We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and that you and your children are feeling refreshed and ready for a busy Spring term.

In this letter we would just like to outline some of the learning that we are planning for this half of the term. Our topics are going to be Winter, animals; and their different environments and the Chinese New Year. Our Winter theme will include signs of Winter, snow and ice investigations & looking after our birds during the Winter. If you have any materials/books linked to any of these aspects that we can borrow to enhance the topic we will be very pleased to receive them and will take great care of them. Our Literacy focus will be on animals and we will look at fiction, information books and poetry.

The Chinese New Year is a really interesting, colourful festival and one which we include every year as there are so many varied and exciting learning opportunities. As in previous years, we’re hoping to organise a whole-school visit to the Silk Road Restaurant in Heacham for a chance to taste Chinese cuisine and a first-hand experience of customs and traditions. We have been lucky enough to have done this for the last few years and it has been great fun!! (more details nearer the time).

We will be continuing with our whole-school ‘PPH’ (Presentation, Punctuation & Handwriting) focus. Although much of this is aimed at KS1 and KS2 especially, we all need to strive to improve our handwriting and to this end we hope you will continue to support your child to develop a neat cursive style by taking the opportunity to use the practise sheets that we always send home when we have taught a new letter sound (phoneme) at school. We have noticed that most children are really beginning to get the hang of cursive writing but **everyone** needs to practise at home to consolidate the learning done in school. Please ensure that your child sees you writing (not necessarily cursively!) and look for opportunities for writing together eg a shopping list or a thank you letter. We will be continuing our daily Phonics sessions and will be introducing the remaining set of phonemes before moving on to consonant digraphs (two consonants that make a single sound eg **ch**) vowel digraphs (eg **oa, oo**) and trigraphs (eg **igh, ear, air**).

The children will continue to bring home keywords and reading books each day. Please read with your child **every day**, little and often is best, and do make sure their keywords are in their bookbag every day too. Library books will continue to be changed on Fridays and ‘Show and Tell’ will also still be on Friday afternoon.

Our Mathematics learning will focus on counting using numbers to 20 (or higher, if appropriate), ordering numbers, being able to say which number is one more or one less than a given number, adding and subtracting using objects and counting on or back to find the answer. We will also introduce 3D shapes as well as further investigating Pattern. The children will learn about Time and Money and we will have plenty of opportunities to investigate Measuring (making comparisons of size, height, weight, length).

As we did last term, Mrs Patnell and myself will continue to teach PE, which will be mainly indoors this term on a Wednesday & Friday. Please ensure your child always has their PE kit in school ( and please check that everything fits **and is named!!**) We will be aiming to get out for our ‘Daily Mile’ as often as possible and so everyone needs a pair of trainers in school every day.

In Reception we introduce a weekly Homework activity at the start of the Spring term In line with homework throughout the rest of the school. Please see the separate homework letter that will be sent home and will also be on the school website.

We are hoping to arrange at least one visit to Houghton Hall this term…details as soon as the booking is confirmed.

Finally a huge thank you to those parents who have shared in our learning on Tapestry at home, and who have supported their children by uploading photos and commentaries about special times/weekends with your family. The children love sharing their photos and it always helps with News on a Monday if there is a photographic prompt, so please try to post a picture of something you did at the weekend.

Our very best Wishes for a productive term together!

Mrs Patnell, Mrs Berry and Mrs Garrard

