

Early Years Newsletter Summer 2021



Welcome back after the Easter holiday and also a very warm welcome to our new children and families. We are looking forward to an action-packed summer in Early Years at Nantwich Primary Academy. The following newsletter will highlight everything you need to know for the Summer term.



Class Dojo

As you know, the children work very hard each week to earn 'Dojo Points' for effort and achievement and this is celebrated every week in the classroom. We highlight the weekly 'Dojo Masters' who have achieved the top number of Dojos in our school newsletter each week. The children are working really hard to earn those extra Dojo points - well done!



Homework

The summer term Homework Overview sheet will be attached to this letter explaining the home learning that should take place. Your child will receive Dojo Points for completing **one** task each week and sending it in via Class Dojo Portfolio. If your child has a homework idea of their own, you can do that and send it in instead too. We will celebrate the homework in class each week by sharing examples from Portfolio. A task needs to be completed and uploaded to Portfolio each week on a **Thursday**. Homework is whole school expectation and has a hugely positive impact on consolidating your child's learning.

Reading

Your Reception child's book bag needs to be in school every **Monday and Friday** please. Please try and read with your child at least three times a week and then record this in the reading diary so we can reward your child with a special sticker on a Friday. Tricky word cards or spellings also need to be practiced and will also be tested on a Friday. Your child needs lots of practice to become a fluent reader, so the more your child reads, the better they will get.



Morning toast

Every child is offered half a slice of toast each morning. This is not breakfast but helps fill that 'hungry' gap before snack time. We do ask for a contribution of £1 per week for each child and this is paid online using our online payment system as we are a cashless school (this is also how you pay for school uniform). This contribution also enables us to buy bread, snacks, cooking ingredients, fresh playdough and role play resources.

Milk and snack

Mid-morning, every child is offered a carton of fresh milk to drink with a free piece of fruit. The milk is free until your child reaches their 5th birthday. After this, you will receive information from 'Cool Milk' how to set up an account to pay for this.

Water

Please provide your child with a clearly named water bottle each day. This should only contain plain water, not clear fruit water or juice. Packed lunches should also contain a drink.



Sun hats and sun cream

As the weather improves, we will be spending more time outside. We need to protect delicate skin and heads from the sun. Please can you provide your child with a named sunhat to wear in school. Lots of children may end up with the same type of hat (especially Paw Patrol) so naming it is essential! We are unable to apply suntan lotion to your child in school. However, there are several 'all-day' brands available which you can apply to your child before school to help keep their skin safe.

Uniform

School Uniform should be correctly worn at all times in both Reception and Nursery classes please. The summer uniform can be worn from now onwards.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

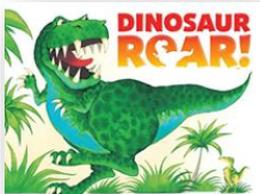
Please note that open-toed sandals, casual trainers or lace-up shoes are not suitable school shoes for Nursery and Reception children.

These types of shoes are not part of our school uniform (although black lace-up school shoes can be worn further up the school) and are not safe as they catch on our outside bikes and climbing equipment. Velcro fastening black school shoes will enable your child to access all our physical equipment safely and change into wellies independently for water play. Thank you.



Our Learning

Our classroom learning uses the Foundation Stage Curriculum which focuses on three prime areas (essential to underpin children's future learning and healthy development) and four specific learning areas: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.



This term our topic will be 'Dinosaur Roar!'

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Our key texts this term will be: 'Dinosaur Roar!' By Paul and Henrietta Stickland and 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds. These books will help us explore rhyming and descriptive words and help us create our own stories by developing our imagination.

We will be creating story maps to remember our stories and this will help us retell them in our own words. We will then be changing elements of the story map to ones we have chosen and this will create a completely new story for us to rehearse and write. We will be thinking about the structure and sequence of stories and be able to talk to others to show that we have understood what we have been reading about.

We have our own special dinosaur egg in the classroom and we will be thinking and writing about what type of dinosaur might be waiting to hatch! The children will design their own dinosaurs and use their phonic knowledge and tricky words to write descriptive sentences about them. We will be writing shape poems about our favourite dinosaurs and using non-fiction texts to help us write a fact file about a dinosaur we have researched.

Phonics

Phonics: Nursery will be following Phase 1 Letters and Sounds phonics looking at hearing alliteration and initial sounds in words. They will also be practicing name writing every day. Some children will start to learn Phase 2 sounds, starting with s, a, t, p, i, n and learning blending, so hearing that the sounds c-a-t make the word cat. Reception will be completing and consolidating Phase 3 Phonics and moving into Phase 4 with initial blends like bl, fl, and st.

Maths

Reception will be counting confidently beyond 20 and will know that larger numbers are further along a number track. We will be recognising some quantities without counting using dots on dice and dominoes. We will also be consolidating our work on addition and subtraction within 10 and start to learn doubles to 5+5. We will look at sharing, understanding when it is fair (equal groups) or not fair (unequal groups) and halving.

Nursery will be looking at recognising number words, so that '4' means that they need to give four objects. We will also be counting and remembering numerals to 10 and matching the correct number of objects to numerals up to 5 and then 10.

Understanding of the World

We will be using an enquiry approach to our topic learning, using questions such as: What did dinosaurs eat and how big was a Tyrannosaurus Rex? We will also link the question, 'where did the dinosaurs go, with our previous topic on space to link our learning together.

Expressive Arts and Design

We use texture and collage to create our own dinosaur eggs and painting our own dinosaurs using watercolours and sensory painting to display in our classroom. Then we will be making dinosaurs out of construction, 2D and 3D shapes, which will link into all the other areas of our curriculum. How many legs should my Lego Tyrannosaurus Rex have? What shape is the horn on a triceratops? We will also be using paint computer programmes to design and draw our own made-up dinosaur.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our focus this term will be to talk about how the children show their feelings and to be able to talk about their own and others behaviour. We will do this through the book, 'Have you filled a bucket today' by Carol McCloud and acting out scenarios together.

Physical Development

As well as spending as much time as we can climbing, cycling and balancing outside, we will be experimenting with how dinosaurs move and looking at ways to keep healthy and safe (including sun safety).

Communication and Language

Using our topic theme stories we will continue to explore new vocabulary and thinking about the different tenses we use when we are talking about the past, present or the future. We will be connecting spoken ideas together, discussing what the children already know about dinosaurs and using how and why questions in their research. We also be using the 'Word Aware' strategy to explore various concepts in practical ways, such as 'in front/behind' or 'on top/under'.