

# Reception News

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term. We are halfway through the year already! We hope you all had a lovely break with your children. They all seemed very happy to be back at school yesterday and had lots of news to share with us all.

As the weather (hopefully) begins to warm up, we will start our 'Ready Steady Grow' and 'Signs of Spring' topics. We will be starting to plant some seeds to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers over the next few weeks and will be learning how to look after them.

## **This week we are learning:**

**Phonics** – we are learning the digraphs 'ar' and 'or' and the tricky word 'you'.

**Literacy** – we will be reading 'The Extraordinary Gardener' by Sam Boughton. We will be exploring the meaning of the words 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' and will be writing sentences about extraordinary things. We will also be reading 'The Enormous Turnip' by Aleksei Tolstoy, exploring the vocabulary in the book and will be labelling a picture of an apple.

**Maths** – we are learning about number 16 and will be focusing on adding two numbers together. We do this in a very practical way such as rolling a dice, counting out that many objects, rolling the dice again and adding that many objects. We then count the total.

**Jigsaw** – our Jigsaw focus for this half term is 'Healthy Living'. This week we are learning that we need exercise to keep our bodies healthy.

**Music** – we are starting the SingUp lessons called 'Row, row, row your boat'. We will explore a range of ways to experience the beat, identify and sing notes that move in step and beat and will explore percussion instruments.

**PE** – we are learning to waterski with 'Wendy's Waterski Challenge'. We have been practicing how to work with a partner to lean backwards (whilst keeping balanced) to learn to waterski.

**Handwriting** – this week we will learn about one-armed robot letters and will focus on b & p.

**Other** – We will be learning about farms and farmyard animals, using our senses to explore fruits and vegetables and will be printing with fruits and vegetables.

## **Reminders**

- If your child brought their PE kit home before the half term holiday, could you please return it. We had a couple of children without PE kits yesterday.
- Next week we will be taking part in Communication Week. We will be watching live author events on Monday and Friday and will be taking part in a live Poetry Basket session on Wednesday. We will also be having some joint playtimes with Little Oaks.
- As well as next week being Communication Week, this year is also National Year of Reading. Reading is in a generational decline with the number of parents reading aloud to young children having dropped from 64% in 2012 to 41% in 2025. Reading aloud to children encourages a love of reading which, in turn, improves vocabulary, imagination and improves writing in future years. We would, therefore, like to invite parents in to read to the children next week. This could be a favourite book of yours or of your children's. It doesn't need to be a long story. You just need to be available around 2.30 on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday next week. If you would like to come in and read a story with the children, please email us through the office letting us know which day you could do and the name of the book that you would like to read.
- Next Thursday is also World Book Day (what a busy week). Children can come to school dressed as a character from a favourite **book**. There is no need to go out and buy a costume. We love home made costumes. Please remember that we will still be having playtimes and some of our learning time outside so make sure that your child is dressed appropriately and that they still have a warm coat etc.