

Robins Class Newsletter

Spring Term 2021

Dear Robins Parents,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

I hope you all had a wonderful festive break with your families and the children enjoyed themselves. Thank you all once again for all the Christmas gifts and good wishes, all of which were very much appreciated. Thank you! I feel thoroughly spoilt.

Things have changed completely since my first writing of this newsletter. I was looking forward to beginning another busy term with the Rocking Robins filled with all sorts of exciting and interesting new things for your children to learn and discover. What an amazing class they are! Although the children are learning from home, we will continue with learning from home and I will support in every way I can.

The children had settled into life at primary school quickly and were already happy and confident learners. As the year in school progresses the children are increasingly directed toward structured learning activities, therefore our sessions this term would have become slightly more structured. Learning from home is far more intense for children as they have 1:1 attention but they will also gain a great deal from this. I would like to continue using the themes and texts I had planned to use.



The initial week will continue with the Winter story from last term '**Sneezy the Snowman**'. During the rest of the first half term, our focus story book will be '**Shh! We have a Plan**' by Chris Haughton. I am hoping that this story will not be too familiar to many children as we will be reading sections of the story and exploring the pictures and storyline together. This will be our overall story this half term however we will also have a story of the week. In class, we listen to our story of the week every day. This gives the children an opportunity to become familiar with the storyline and then we can explore vocabulary and the comprehension in good detail.

In the second half term, we begin with our topic of '**Once Upon a Time**' and our focus story will be Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In addition, we will also be learning an additional traditional tale every week.

When we are back to school we will begin Early Morning work with an independent activity set-up on the smartboard. The children will get their whiteboard or

writing book and then settle to the activity from their carpet space.

Phonics

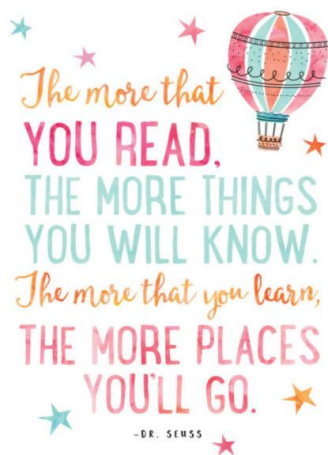
Throughout home learning, we will continue with a daily Phonic session teaching grapheme and phoneme correspondence, ensuring blending, and segmenting of words. I will talk through a powerpoint and this will be interactive so children will write and talk through this too. This incorporate a great deal of learning. You will notice the my turn, your turn when we are reading, is really important and we have been doing this a great deal in class and seen huge improvement in speech and language. It gives children an opportunity to speak without the pressure; they are copying what has been said and everybody is saying the same thing. It is also really useful for their listening skills and to help with their fluency and intonation when reading. The advice is that if your child is saying a word incorrectly, to model it back to them in the correct way without drawing attention to the fact they said it incorrectly.

We have completed Phase 2 of our phonics. This week we will revisit and consolidate our learning from last term. After this point in school we would assess what the children remember and are using before we begin our Phase 3 our Phonics learning. I will send home some ideas of how we can do this and then provide further resources and support for children who need it – just like we would do in school.

Our daily Maths session will also continue and whilst children are at home we will use the Oak Academy videos .

Reading

Although all children are at different developmental stages, most children are now blending and have a good initial grasp of phonics. At this critical stage, daily reading is essential. A little and often approach is much more successful than saving it all until the weekend. Please continue to read with your child daily at home. When your child is ready they would have be given a book with words to take home this term. The books they take home are banded with different colours, lilac books are without words and the next level is pink. You can create an account for free at Oxford Owl and access the eBook library for these bands. Reading is a new and exciting skill for the children and it is this term we see them **'take off'**.



If your child is whizzing through their word boxes list, it would be a great opportunity to encourage them to segment and write these words (and thereafter, when ready, to write the word in a sentence). When children write at home please encourage them to adopt the correct pencil grip. As their hand muscles are strengthening they will find this easier. The children have been taught and all know the correct formation of letters (we are still to do j,v,w,x,y,z and q). I would have been insisting they form their letters the correct way when they write in school. Once habits in writing are formed they are very hard to break as you will notice in their name writing. Part of the Key stage 1 curriculum is focused on joined up writing and I would not be preparing the children for their future schooling if their letters (and numbers) are not correct. Our handwriting policy is teaching children the 'whoosh' off letters ready to join. As we learn more digraphs in phonics we shall be joining these from the outset. Please ensure your child also forms the letters correctly at home, no child should now be writing a "McDonalds M" starting from the bottom or starting their 'o' at the bottom. I will post the formation sheet onto class dojo.



Communication

If you need to speak to me about anything, no matter how minor, please message me on dojo. The situation we find ourselves in is very tricky. You can also contact me and ask any questions in our daily zoom session. We'll see how the zoom sessions go, initially there may be lots of waving! Children can pop in and out of these as and when and they can show me any work they would like to share too.

Thank you for your continued support
Mrs Kerry Taylor