

Curriculum Information

Reception Spring Term



Happy New Year! We hope you all had a fun filled Christmas and managed to get some rest in between the festivities. We are back and raring to go with a busy and exciting term of learning. The children have already made amazing progress since starting in reception and we are excited to support them in continuing to develop socially and academically.

Reading book changes will remain as **Monday** and the new books will be kept in school for our group reading sessions until **Wednesday** when your child will bring them home to continue to read with you.

Children will continue to visit the library on **Fridays** so please ensure library books are in school to be changed.

P.E will be on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Your child **must** come in their P.E kits. Please also ensure that children have a coat with them every day even as the days warm up as we like to be outside as much as possible. During the course of last term we had lots of lost property which was unnamed. Please ensure that all items are labelled especially hoodies, jumpers and cardigans.

Now the children are really settled into school we would like to start “mystery reader” sessions. This involves a parent signing up to come and share a favourite story with the class at the end of the day. As the name suggests it is nice to keep it a secret from your child so they get the surprise. A further email will be coming out with a link to allow you to book a session which is convenient for you.

Maths

This half term we will be building on the work around numbers 1-5 and moving on to numbers to 10 including recognising numerals, counting forwards and backwards and making amounts. We will also be developing the children’s understanding of measuring including mass, capacity, length and height and introducing 3D shapes.

To support your child’s increasing understanding of maths concepts here are some ideas for ways to help at home

- Spotting numbers on buses, in the supermarket and other places
- Counting objects, people and things which can’t be moved e.g. how many flowers on the picture?
- Baking is a great way to introduce the vocabulary of weight and bath time is the perfect opportunity to practice capacity.
- Download the White Rose and Numbots Apps and have a go at some games!

English

In drawing club this half term we will be working on developing caption and sentence writing, encouraging children to sound out words themselves and use the tricky words they have been learning. Our first book will be “Snowball” this will give the children lots of opportunities to retell the story and develop their vocabulary when story telling.

During this term we will be thinking a lot about the sequences of events in stories and creating story maps as well as looking in more detail at characters and settings of different stories. We will be writing short labels, captions and sentences to retell stories.

Please continue to read regularly with your child and listen to them read also encourage them to write for a purpose e.g. a note for a friend, label for a Lego model or the shopping list. When hearing them read encourage them to retell the events in their own words and talk about what happened in the story.

Phonics

The children are already making great progress with their phonics and we will continue to learn new sounds this term. We will be focusing on digraphs (where two letters make one sound e.g. ai). When reading words the children are encouraged to spot the digraphs first to help them when decoding. Please continue to practice the sounds and tricky words we send home each week to support your child with remembering the sounds. This does not need to be onerous and is best played as a game e.g. hiding them around the house, spreading them out and playing fastest finger first (who can splat the sound first), making them out of playdough or painting them. The more practice they get at spotting these sounds in the environment the easier it will be for them to recall them.

Reading

We will continue to read in groups 3 times a week following the same system as last half term. Each week they will read with a different adult so that all adults get the chance to read with every group. We then will send books home with them on the Wednesday for them to practice at home this is a great opportunity for them to develop their fluency and expression as they should be familiar with the text. It is lovely if they have the opportunity to read to extended family to show off their increasing skills.

Session 1 Decoding: This is the chance to learn the story, learn new vocabulary and explore the structure.

Session 2 Prosody: A chance to continue learning the story, look at characters and expression when reading.

Session 3 Comprehension: By this stage we hope the children are familiar with the story and need little help. At the end of the story we ask questions to check their understanding.

All guidance for the 3 sessions are in the back of the book for practice at home too.

Topic

This half term our topic is "What was life like in the past?" We will be looking at how they have changed as they have grown and learning about how life was different in the past. We will look at homes and schools in the past as well as toys that used to be played with. It would be really lovely if we could share some real life experiences so if children have older family members or friends of the family it would be lovely if they could talk about what they used to play with etc. (Even CDs are an alien concept to most children!) It would also be great to see photos of family members from the past so please if you have some email them to reception@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk

Technology

We will be focusing on using technology to collect and display data. The children will use the j2e app to allow them to create pictograms by asking their friends questions and gathering information and then use the pictograms to answer questions about which is most/least popular.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will continue to have access to the design and craft area throughout the day but these will be complemented with different enhancements and focused activities related to their topic.

As a focus we will be answering the question 'How can I express myself through paint?'. The children will learn how to mix colours using powder paint to create different shades and will learn about the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky.

Through music we will explore how to change the pitch of music on tuned instruments and learn about how changing the tempo of the music affects the feeling it creates. We will continue to learn to sing and perform a variety of songs.

Physical Development

Gross Motor: The children will continue to develop gross motor skills through balancing and building on a large scale in the outdoor area..

P.E Focus: This term we will be focusing on dance and gymnastics to support children in developing their coordination and core strength. **PE takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

Fine Motor: We will continue to work on letter formation and developing skills using playdough and Lego.

R.E

This half term our big question will be “**How do people celebrate special times?**”

The children will learn about a wide range of festivals and celebrations from around the world including Lunar New Year, Eid, Holi, Pesach, Lent, Mardi Gras and Easter.

If you and your family celebrate any of these festivals please let us know and if possible share some photos of your celebrations.

PSHE

This half term we will be looking at: “keeping safe” this will help children understand how to keep themselves safe in different circumstances including knowing how to keep healthy and how to keep safe at home, in school and out and about. We will talk about what to do if they feel unsafe and how to talk to a trusted adult.

Our **My happy mind** focus this term will be appreciation. Taking time to appreciate the good things we do and the things that others do for us. It will help children to build a positive mindset focusing on how they have achieved things and overcome obstacles which will develop their resilience.

Home Learning

Reading - Reading at home continues to be the main part of home learning. This should be regularly in short bursts (approx. 5 minutes). Also take time to talk about what the children have read and encourage them to think about using voices for characters as appropriate. When your child has read the book talk about the text and ask questions to check their understanding. There are questions in the back of the book and please encourage them to explain how they know.

Words - We will continue to send sounds home as we learn them. A game that the children enjoy at school is “change it” where you make one word using the sound card e.g. **set** then the challenge is to change the word by swapping one letter each time. Changing set to pet then pet to pen etc. It is really good to develop their auditory skills and supports both spelling and reading. Please continue to practice sight reading of tricky words. These can't be sounded out so need to become sight words. In school we talk about the part of the word that is tricky to help the children.

Arbor - This will now be the main way that communication will come from school. Please contact the office if you have any problems accessing it.

Wow moments - please let us know of any wow moments where your child demonstrates a new skill and feel free to send in examples of writing/maths/art they would like to share in class.

Important dates:

Thursday 5h February - 8:45-9:15 reception class parent event (Grandparents welcome if parents can't make it!)

Tuesday 24th February Wild explorers trip.

Tuesday 10th March - Fairy tale workshop

If there is anything you would like to discuss in person please let us know and we can arrange a date and time. If you have any questions please feel free to email us or catch us at pick up/drop off.

Reception@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk

Thank you, Mrs Moore and Mrs Wilkinson