



Hercules Class Newsletter End of Term 3 and looking forward to Term 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your third end of term class newsletter and we are half way through your children's first school year! We have been making changes to how our classroom runs by developing continuous provision for the children to access resources more independently and be more creative in their play supported by the St. Michael's C of E Primary School. The children's confidence is growing in how they talk about what they are doing and making. We are still working on the balance bikes as part of PE and hope to give out certificates as soon as everyone has mastered the BALANCE Bikeability programme. It's been a much quieter and quicker term this time, but the children have been busy developing their confidence to write independently and have developed their speaking and listening skills through our Oracy lessons. Also, they have been developing their understanding of different world religions in their houses with their buddies. I have been so proud of them taking all the changes in their stride and supporting each other to do their best in their learning. Well done everyone and thank you for all your parental support and amazing attendance at Stay and Read, Christingle Stay and Play - it's been a joy to have you all in the school. Enjoy your half term break.



A few things to remember as we start our fourth term together:

Field and Forest – Fridays 1st, 8th, 14th, 22nd March. Please wear long sleeves and long trousers with non-school uniform – remember if they are not in school already to bring welly boots and full waterproofs as we go out in all weather. The format has changed as unfortunately we no longer have Church Farm site due to building work. We will have four groups – 2 will go to the church off site and 1 will be doing cooking (linking nature to what we eat) and in our on-site Field and Forest area, currently being developed by Phoenix class, being creative outdoors.

PE – CHANGE OF DAY just Thursdays from 22 March – Please wear PE kits to school on this day. Apologies as there have been some changes of times in school. Wednesday AM didn't work for us. Thank you for your patience and support - I know it's annoying to keep swapping, but we are trying to free up more time for play in our school day for the child so please bear with us.

Water bottles, Coats, Welly boots and Fully waterproofs - Please ensure your child returns to school with a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf as the cold weather takes its grip, as well as full waterproofs (one piece or two pieces are fine) and welly boots for outside play - these need to be clearly labelled with your child's name. It is worth noting the back door of our classroom is often open – so many warm layers for the winter months for inside the classroom is advised as well.

Snack – One piece of fruit is available per day per child to eat when they are hungry.

Classroom Resources - We are always looking for things to cut and make for junk modelling and collage. Also natural objects such as pine cones and acorns are useful, and we have just started our deconstructed roleplay so we are looking for boxes - the larger the better. All would be gratefully received in Hercules class.

We are also looking for some traffic cones to lay out a circuit for the balance bikes in the outside classroom if anyone know where we could get some from.

Tapestry - Please send in your Mother's Day and Easter family photos and memories (as old as possible to show these events have been celebrated before they were born - maybe grandparents could help out with this) and then favourite books for Show and Tell. This is key part of the curriculum in Early Years not only for developing their communication skills and questioning but also to develop an awareness of difference within families and their community. I will send the timetable out at the beginning of term as a reminder.

Reading books – We read Monday to Friday so please ensure their reading book folder has everything in it, and is brought to school every day. We expect parents to support their children reading at least four times a week to help them achieve their reading certificates each term. We check reading records every week and will be catching parents who haven't read at home to see if there is any further support they may need. Thanks so much, we really notice the difference when you have practised their phonics and are doing regular reading at home. It really grows their confidence.

Library Books – Wednesday is our swap day. Take time each day to share a book with your child and chat using story language - What do you think the story is about? Who are the characters? Where is it set? What's happening in the story? How will he solve that? How do they feel? Can you predict what will happen in the end? What was their favourite bit of the story?

Some Important Dates Dates in red Show and Tell

Wk 1 19th February Show and Tell Our Pets - my pets and my parents' pets

Friday 22nd Feb Reception Health Screening

Wk2 26/28/29th Feb Parents Evenings

Wk2 26th Feb Show and Tell Favourite books

Wk 3 4th March Show and Tell Mother's Day memories from parents and grandparents – what did you do for your mum? and PSHE Show and Tell your child's favourite healthy meal

5th March Katherine Bloomer's visit

11th March World Book Day Dress up

WK4 11th March PSHE show and Tell exercise your do outside of school.

14th March Stay and Play – focus on sight words and writing

15th March Red Nose Day

Wk5 18th March Show and Tell Favourite books

19-26th March Book fair

Wk6 25th March Show and Tell – Easter memories from parents and grandparents - photos or memories of Easter past and PSHE Show and Tell – how I get ready for bed

28th March Easter service

Please take a look at our curriculum map for the learning we will be doing this term and the books we will be exploring together.

Best Wishes from the Hercules Team - Miss Rimmer, Miss Tomlinson Mrs Stables & Mrs Ford.