



## Hercules Class Newsletter: End of Spring 2 and introducing Summer 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your fourth Hercules end of term newsletter! We are just past half way through their first school year and only one big term to go before you will be thinking about the next class! As you know, we have been making changes to how our classroom runs. We have now got continuous provision for the children to access resources independently and we will continue to make smaller adjustments through the year with support from St. Michael's C of E Primary School. The children's oracy is getting better all the time and we continue to support them to become confident. We have seen them growing in how they talk about what they are doing and making, and how they have developed their own abilities.



It's been another quicker term this time, but the children's phonics is going from strength to strength and they gained so much confidence that we have started weekly challenges including Maths and Writing activities to do independently around the classroom. Of course, we also had World Book Day full of dressing up, fun and quizzes. I have been so proud of them taking all the changes with such enthusiasm 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 the Stay and Play Sight Word games. It's been a joy to have you all in the school as always. Please keep practising and learning those sight words as it helps your child to read with fluency and write with confidence. Finally, the children have been practising their balance bike skills in groups and, as I'm sure you have seen already, successfully mastered the BALANCE Bikeability programme. Well done, everyone! It's been great fun and a wonderful addition to our classroom to support the children's core strength for writing stamina in Y1.

I know everyone is ready for some time off – so enjoy your Easter break.



### **A few things to remember as we start our fifth term together:**

**Field and Forest** –Fridays: 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> May. Please continue to wear long sleeves and long trousers (non-school uniform) – remember if they are not in school already, to bring welly boots and full waterproofs as we go on in all weather. We will be staying with the same format until the end of term, having four groups – 2 will go to the church off site and 1 will be doing cooking (linking nature to what we eat, with the possibility of foraging) and 1 will be on-site in our Field and Forest area we are developing by Phoenix class, being creative outdoors. We will be focusing on RSPB Wild Challenge activities to work towards our Bronze Awards.

**PE** – Thursday from 18 April – Please wear PE kits to school on this day.

**Water bottles, Coats, Welly boots and Full waterproofs** - Please ensure your child returns to school with a waterproof coat, hat, gloves and scarf for cold weather and sunhat for sunny weather. We will be wearing our full waterproofs (one piece or two pieces are fine) and welly boots for outside classroom play - these need to be clearly labelled with your child's name. It is worth noting the door of our classroom is always open – so keep with the layered approach for inside the classroom as well as it can still be cool in the warmest of weather.

**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, natural objects such as pine cones and acorns and we continue with our deconstructed roleplay area, so we are looking for boxes the larger the better. All would be gratefully received in Hercules class.

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

**Show and Tell** Please send photos of outings and events or favourite books from your family for Show and Tell. Talk to your child about your favourite children's story. If possible, it would be wonderful for parents or grandparents to share a story by videoing themselves and popping it onto Tapestry or in person in class. This is key part of the curriculum in Early Years not only for developing communication skills and questioning, but also to develop an awareness of difference within families and their community. We are changing Show Tell to two children a day to accompany the stories. **If you would like to come in to share a story we can easily swap the time to the end of the day, as we normally do it straight after lunch, just let us know.** 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 need when we are back in April. Thanks so much - we really notice the difference when you have practised their phonics and have regularly read at home. It really grows the children's 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**

**18<sup>th</sup> April Bring in your dinosaur Easter Challenge work**

**26<sup>th</sup> April Red Barn Solar Farm visit am**

**29<sup>th</sup> April Class Photos Day**

**30<sup>th</sup> April Katherine Bloomers visit the**

**1<sup>st</sup> May Stay and Read**

**7<sup>th</sup> May Church Visit the volunteers needed please**

**9<sup>th</sup> May Stay and Play Writing**

Watch out for our parents' letter about RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) to inform you about the lessons we will be teaching in term 6 as part of our SCARF Growing and Changing topic.

Please take a look at over curriculum map attached 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.*