**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

25th February 2019

**Reception Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term! We hope you have all had a lovely break and are feeling ready for the new term ahead. After a busy break, we are back are raring to go! We cannot wait to see your little ones and to find out what they have been up to.

This half term we will be exploring the topic of ‘Pets’. We will be reading several stories related to Pets and our first story is ‘The Great Pet Sale’ by Mick Inkpen. At home you could:

* Read stories related to pets or animals.
* Talk about any pets that you have and how you care for them
* Talk about going to visit the vet.

**Communication, Language and Literacy Focus**

Literacy this half term will continue to have a focus on segmenting for writing and blending for reading. Children will read a variety of pet related stories, which will act as a stimulus for sequencing, writing labels, captions, sentences and lists. In Phonics, the children will be continuing with Phase 3 phonics as a part of the Letters and Sounds phonic programme. As well as learning new sounds in Phase 3, the children will be engaged in activities which will consolidate their learning of Phase 2 sounds. This will increase the children’s confidence when recognising letters and when blending and segmenting to read and write.

Here are the sounds that we have learned in Phase 2:

Phase 2

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: I, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Here are the sounds and graphemes which the children are learning in Phase 3:

Phase 3

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Graphemes: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.

**Guided Reading and words**

At the end of the previous term, the children had started to do Guided Reading. We have decided to continue this as it is a more effective way of hearing your child read. By doing guided reading we are able look at books in depth, which allows us to identify any weaknesses or specific strengths in your child’s reading, build fluency, expand vocabulary and develop reading comprehension skills. Your child will read the same story more than once, so that they can practise and become more familiar with the text.

In regards to reading books and reading records, please can I ask that these are kept in your child’s book bag and are returned to school every day. Your child will receive a reading book and a guided reading book to read at home.

Homework challenges and reading challenges will continue to be sent home on a **Thursday**. The children’s Library Books will continue to be changed on a **Thursday**, so will need to be returned to school each Thursday to ensure that your child receives a new book to take home.

**Mathematics**

In Mathematics the children will continue to engage in practical activities which include counting objects to 10 and beyond 10, ordering numbers from up to 10 and beyond. As well as this, we will be adding two amounts together by counting, comparing the weight and capacity of two sets of objects and we will be learning about money.

**PE**

PE will be on a **Friday** this half term. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of well-fitting plimsoles for outdoor lessons. It would be very helpful if any children with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on these days. Ear piercings should be removed or taped up.

**Visits**

This term we will be visited by For Paws, who will be introducing the class to animals which are kept as pets. We will be learning about how to care for the different pets also.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Baharie & Miss Leigh.

**Dates for your diary:**

**25/2/19-** International World Thinking Day Children invited to wear Brownie/Rainbows/Beavers/Cubs Uniforms

**26/2/19 &27/2/19- Parents’ Evening – book appointment online from Monday evening.**

**27/2/19- Reception Audio Testing**

**1/3/19- PE sessions with Lee Sterry commence.**

**7/3/19- World Book Day**

**11/3/19- Reception Eye Tests**

**15/3/19- Red Nose Day**

**21/3/19- Persian New Year**

**28/3/19- Reception Stay and Play @ 9.15**

**29/3/19 Reception Mother’s Day Service @ 2.30**

**1/4/19- Forest School**

**5/4/19- Easter holidays**

Wish list:

We would really appreciate it if you could send in any unwanted small world figures of people.

**Reminders**

* Could all uniform be labelled
* Could you ensure warm outdoor clothing is provided as some activities are carried out outdoors.

Thank You!