

September 2019

Dear Parents,

Curriculum Letter for Sunflowers and Daisies Classes



This term's **BIG** question: What if Paddington got lost in Daventry?

This is our enquiry this term and will therefore be the focus for all of our learning.

Our enquiry will be led by your children, giving them the opportunity to ask and write questions that will drive this topic. These questions will be referred to as our umbrella questions.

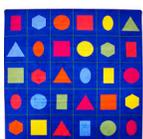
Already we have many interesting questions which will lead us to explore who Paddington is, where he came from, what he eats and how we can help him get to know Daventry.



All areas of the curriculums shall be covered under this topic.

Maths

We are also going to be investigating lots of different mathematic topics this term, including;



shape and numbers (Place value, addition, subtraction and representations).

1-20



Look out for the number line in your child's book bag. Please help them to use it, you could ask them to "find the number 3, count on 1 or 2 or 3 – where are you? OR find the number 5, count back 1 – where are you?" Encourage your child to slide their finger forwards and backwards." Perhaps your child could challenge you too! In addition to this you could also investigate numbers when you are out and about, be a number detective and take photos of your findings, what numbers can you see? You could count the steps on a slide or investigate the number on your door, perhaps you could investigate how many different ways there are to make this number? Please do take photos and send these to Miss Cooney or Mrs. Hopkins using Class Dojo, we would love to see them.



Oxford Reading Buddy

Please look out for your child's log in to our **brand new** on-line book bag. Please log in and encourage your child to read at home. It is a fantastic resource and your child's reading skills will benefit a lot from using it.

Some children will begin to read print around them - you can encourage them to do this by, for example, spotting items in the supermarket - jam, milk, coffee, etc.

We will also be sending home a bookmark for your child to keep; it features all of the reading friends that we use in school to help with developing skills for reading. Please note that we will be introducing these gradually to the children so they might not know them all straight away.

Please do look out for the reading basket. It will be left out each morning. Put your child's book in it if you feel that they are ready to have it changed. We shall then try our best to change it during the day.

In Literacy we will be working to develop all of our writing skills, in many exciting and engaging ways. Please ask your children to show you their phoneme fingers at home. These will help them hear all the sounds in words for writing. We will also be practising our handwriting scheme, Kinetic Letters. The children are introduced to letter formations through stories and will be able to tell you all about both brave and scared monkey and the shapes that their tails make as they jump from their tree. **Ask them to show you using their magic wands and see if they can remember the accompanying rhyme.** As part of our wonderful handwriting scheme we will be making our bodies stronger too. We will practise many poses such as; the meerkat, penguin, lizard, stone lion and gorilla. We will also lay on our tummies lots and lots, all of which will be boosting our core strength.



In addition to this the children will be embarking on many adventures with the Phonics Fairy and Tricky troll. These are key characters in our phonics scheme and they will be visiting the children daily bringing new sounds or tricky words with them each time. **Please ask your children if they were visited by the phonics fairy and which sounds they have learned today. They may even be able to show you the caption action. See if they can apply these sounds to words, you could go on a sound hunt or find items around the house that contain these, perhaps on a cereal box or letter?**



Learning Treasures and Learning Pirates



At St James we value highly home learning and love for you to share this with us. In Reception we have Learning Treasures that can be found outside Sunflower class, on display with our lovely Learning Pirates. These pirates help us learn by helping us understand the characteristics of effective learning. Please share any super learning your child does at home with us, by using these. These are tremendously important to us and the children love to share them with their peers. Thank you for those who have used these to date. Please don't hesitate to take a learning pirates handout to help you understand all of their roles in our learning.



Other things to remind you;

- Home Learning projects will be put on Class Dojo during the first few weeks of the term., please keep your eye out for this and return any learning to school within the term. These will then be showcased at the end of each term.
- Our **PE** lesson will be on **Wednesdays**. Please keep PE kits in the children's lockers. We will send these home every week on a Friday.
- All children do need a **change of clothes**; in case of accidents. Children are usually happier to be changed into their own things, rather than any spares we might have. These can be kept in their lockers too.
- Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies in their locker. This will ensure they can access the outdoor at all times. We will

be using this area for our learning all year round and in all weathers.

- Water bottles will be sent home every Friday for washing, please ensure that this is returned every Monday so that your child has access to a drink throughout the day. The children also use their water bottles at lunchtime. If we have to issue your child a new water bottle you will be charged £1.00 via our parent pay system.
- Please also keep an eye out on Class Dojo for other announcements that may arise.



Starting school at the right time is going to be so important this term. The children will be beginning their learning as soon as they arrive.



Upcoming Events:

- We will be taking the children on a community and Autumn walk this term. The date for these will be confirmed.
- Performance - the children will be learning a poem this term and we will be inviting you to view their performance of this on Wednesday 25th September at 9.00 a.m.
- Curriculum information session for parents will be on the 25th September. This will be an opportunity for you to gain further information about the curriculum and to have your questions answered.
- Parents evenings will be held 22nd October from 3.30-5.00pm and 24th October from 5.30-7.00pm. More information about these to follow.

- Our Harvest festival will take place on 12th November- more information to follow.



If you have any questions or queries, please do ask either at the start of the day or when you collect your child at the end of the day.

Best wishes,

Miss Cooney, Mrs Hopkins, Miss Fuller and Mrs White.