

# Reception Newsletter Spring 1



The focus of this half term is 'Deep in the Forest'. Throughout this topic we will be exploring the different environments around us including the planets and animals that live in these. There will be a range of opportunities for the children to get creative, think critically and explore the environment.

## LITERACY

### Reading

We will continue to focus on a particular book each week based on the topic 'Deep in the Forest', which will generate lots of recall and language opportunities, talking about characters and settings. We will read a variety of books in our daily story sessions. Children will be taking reading books home for you to read and also ditty books for them to read.

### Writing

To develop on our knowledge from the previous term, in Spring 1 we will be concentrating on writing sentences and understanding when and how we use finger spaces, full stops and capital letters.

## Mathematics

### Number

The focus for number will be finding the total amount of items in two groups and using the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. This will be done through concrete methods, using a ten frame and part whole model. We will also be watching and working with the Numberblocks programme (numbers 10-15).

### Shape, Space and Measure

The focus for shape, space and measure will be ordering objects by length or height and weight or capacity. This involves looking at different ways we can measure the length or height of something (using a ruler, using unifix cubes etc). We will be using language related to capacity (empty, half empty, half full, full, nearly empty, nearly full).

## Phonics

We will continue to have phonics sessions twice a day; one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

We will also be learning more tricky words (words which cannot be sounded out). Tricky words learnt to date: I, no, go, to, the.

Tricky words we are going to learn: you, my, was.

Sounds learnt to date:

m, a, s, t, d, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e, l, h, sh (2 letters, one sound - special friends), r.

Sounds we are going to learn:

j, v, y, w, th, z, ch, x, qu.

Mrs Taylor is continuing to lead our weekly fun phonics sessions in a smaller group.

## SUPPORT

Counting and ordering numbers to 10 at home.

Homework sent on Friday - to be completed and brought back to school by the following Monday (reading books also).

Segmenting and blending CVC words - Giving children a three-letter word and seeing if they can tell you the sounds within that word.

Assisting children in hearing initial sounds in any objects found around the house.

## Other areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage

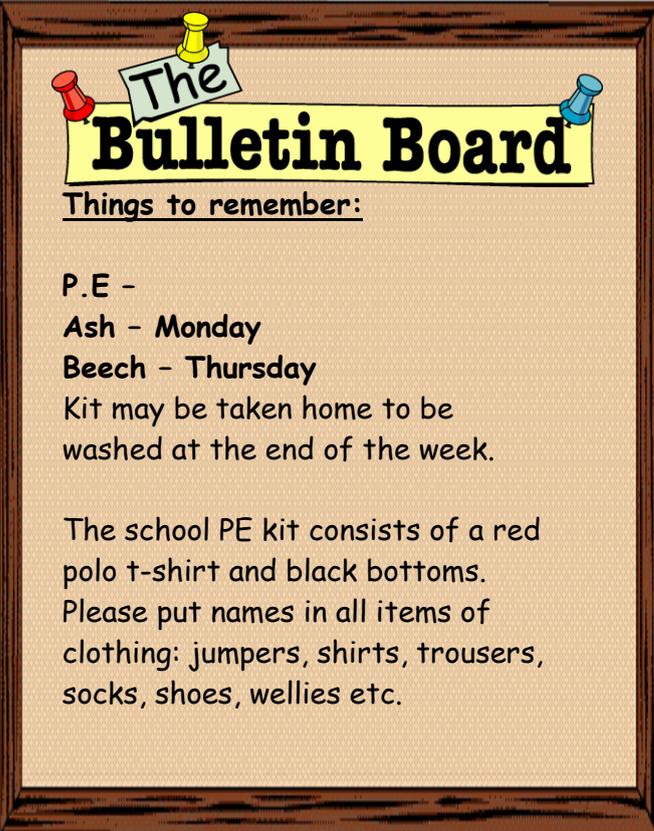
Communication and Language: Speaking and Listening activities, following instructions, use of who, why, what, where and when questions and responding appropriately.

Physical Development: Team games- cooperation, following instructions and turn taking, developing muscles in the fingers to support writing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Confidence building, self-selecting activities, expressing feelings and emotions.

Understanding of the World: Exploring similarities and differences in our appearance, finding out what makes us unique. Exploring the world around us.

Expressive Arts and Design: Exploring different textures, making our own Gruffalo.

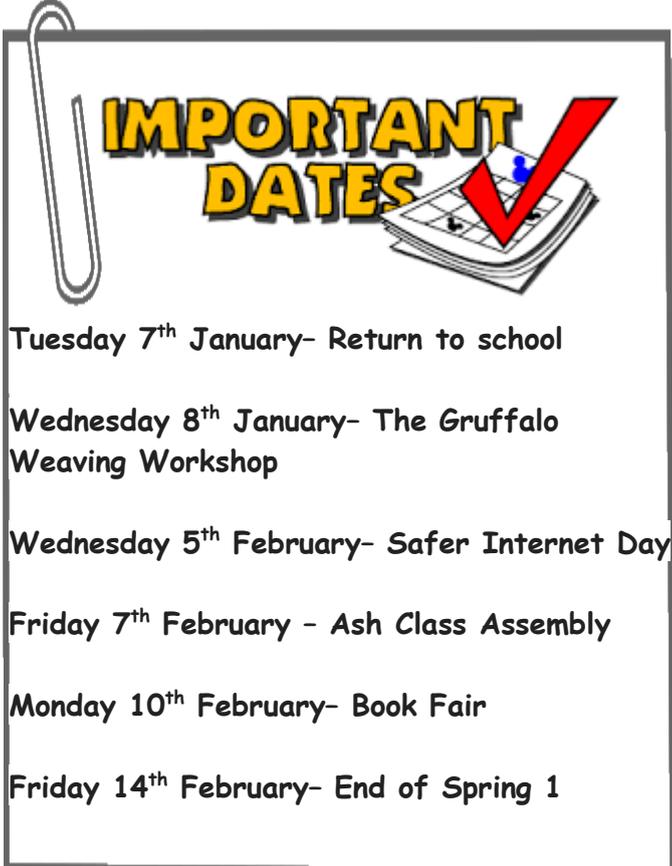


**The Bulletin Board**

Things to remember:

P.E -  
Ash - Monday  
Beech - Thursday  
Kit may be taken home to be washed at the end of the week.

The school PE kit consists of a red polo t-shirt and black bottoms. Please put names in all items of clothing: jumpers, shirts, trousers, socks, shoes, wellies etc.



**IMPORTANT DATES**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January- Return to school

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January- The Gruffalo Weaving Workshop

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February- Safer Internet Day

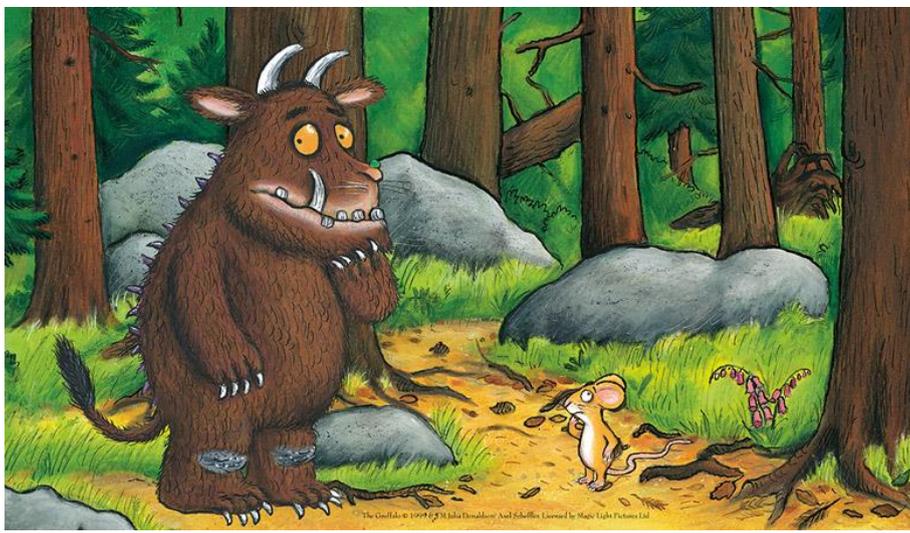
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Ash Class Assembly

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February- Book Fair

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February- End of Spring 1

Stories online: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>  
Alphablocks: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/alphablocks-games>  
Numberblocks: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>





### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

For the PSED area of the curriculum, the main focus will be looking at how we can look after the world around us; looking after plants and animals. We will be thinking about how we can be kind to animals and what we should do to help if one is hurt. We will be having a close look at insects.

### Physical Development

In our weekly PE sessions will be focusing on different ways to control equipment: throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling etc. We will be working on our co-ordination and spatial awareness. We will also be developing our fine motor skills through provision activities.

### Communication and Language

There will be a range of new vocabulary learnt during this topic: forest, rural, urban, environment, plants, insect names. There will be lots of discussion about different insects (spiders, bees, wasps, butterflies, caterpillars) as well as their life cycle.

### Understanding the World

We will be looking at the decay, pattern and changes of planets through each of the months as well as when they are without the essentials to thrive. We are going to plant our own seeds and observe what happens over time. We are also going to identify and name a variety of common and wild garden planets and finally we will be looking at the difference between rural and urban environments.

### Expressive Arts and Design

For the expressive arts and design aspect of the curriculum, the role play will change each week depending on the book; one week it will be a forest for 'The Gruffalo' and another it will be a cave for 'Were going on a bear hunt'. We will be getting creative by making observational paintings of sunflowers and making our own junk modelling forest. Finally, we will be experimenting with colour mixing.