

# Ash & Alder Class

## Newsletter Spring 2

The focus of this half term is 'Building and Growing'. We will be looking at planting, growth and observing changes. We will be doing lots of hands-on activities in the classroom linking to the curriculum and the stories read in class.

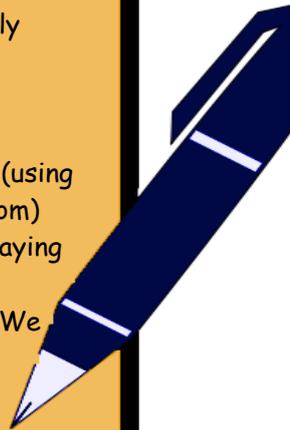
### LITERACY

#### Reading

We will be looking at a selection of books over the half term 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.

#### Writing

We will be doing lots of mark making (using various resources around the classroom) and drawing. We will be focusing on saying the words that we want to write and segmenting the sounds in each word. We will begin to write short sentences.



### Mathematics

#### White Rose Maths

The focus for number will be representing the numbers 9 and 10. This will involve finding objects around the classroom and showing the numbers in different combinations. Children can create pictures to show 9 and 10 such as a monster with 10 arms or a tree with 9 apples. We will also be looking at comparing numbers to 10 and number bonds to 10. We will do this through estimating how many loose parts there are and if the children can compare the quantities in a set. Children will begin to understand number bonds through the use of ten frames and egg boxes. Towards the end of this half term, we will be learning about 3D shapes and patterns. Children will be given the opportunity to build and construct using different 3D shapes.

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### Phonics

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

Sounds learnt to date:

Set 1 and some Set 2.

The phonics lessons will involve children blending sounds in words together to read the whole word and segmenting words in order to write them.

We will also be learning more tricky/red words (words which cannot be sounded out).

If you need any support with understanding phonics and how to support at home, please ask Miss Cross or Miss Halliday.

### SUPPORT

Finding 3D shapes in your home and naming them.

Reading your child's reading book for 10 minutes per day. Please sign the planner and return to school so that we can change the book weekly.

Assisting children in hearing sounds in words. Encouraging writing for a purpose at home, such as a shopping list or a birthday card.

Ensuring children are becoming independent with dressing/undressing.



## Other areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage

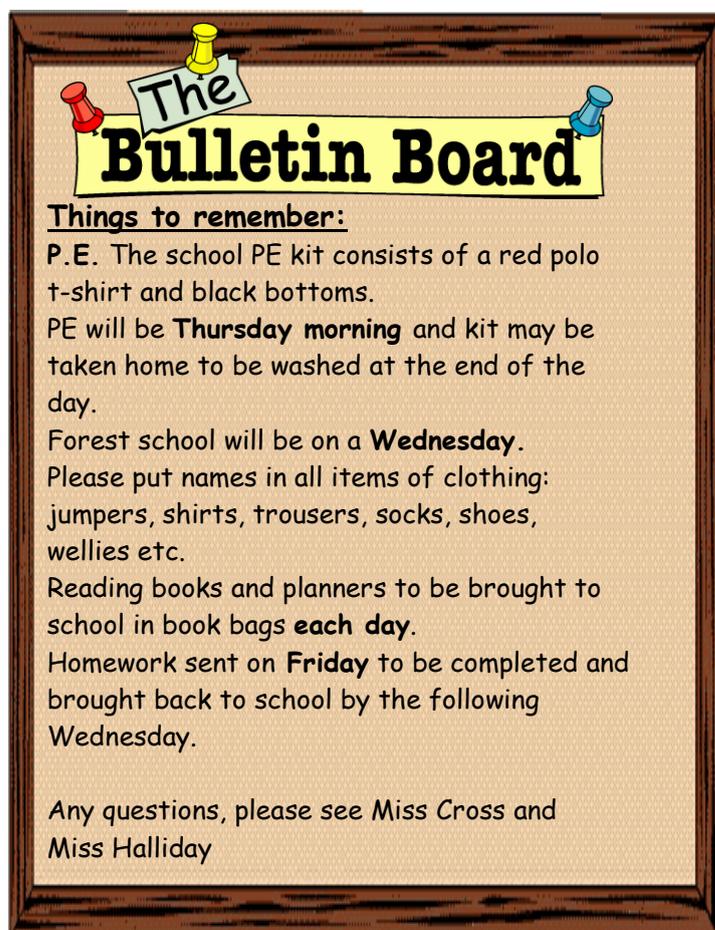
**Communication and Language:** Understanding humour e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes, being able to follow a story without pictures or prompts, introducing a storyline or narrative into their play and listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.

**Physical Development:** Using a pencil and holding it effectively to form recognisable letters, eating a healthy range of foods and understanding the need for variety in food, showing understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges and considering and managing some risks.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Understanding that own actions affect other people, for example, becoming upset or trying to comfort another child when they realise they have upset them.

**Understanding of the World:** Looking closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change for the seasons and living things such as plants and animals. Using ICT hardware to interact with age-appropriate computer software.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Exploring different textures, exploring the different sounds of instruments and beginning to build a repertoire of songs and dances.



### The Bulletin Board

**Things to remember:**

P.E. The school PE kit consists of a red polo t-shirt and black bottoms.  
PE will be **Thursday morning** and kit may be taken home to be washed at the end of the day.

Forest school will be on a **Wednesday**.  
Please put names in all items of clothing: jumpers, shirts, trousers, socks, shoes, wellies etc.

Reading books and planners to be brought to school in book bags **each day**.  
Homework sent on **Friday** to be completed and brought back to school by the following Wednesday.

Any questions, please see Miss Cross and Miss Halliday



## IMPORTANT DATES

- World Book Day/ Drop Everything and Read - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March
- Nursery/EYFS Living Eggs - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Comic Relief Day - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- School closes - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- School open again - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April
- Parents' Evenings - 26/27/28<sup>th</sup> April

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 personal, social and emotion aspect of the curriculum, we will be looking at how we can be kind to others. We will be talking positively about ourselves and about our abilities. We are trying hard in Ash and Alder class in being able to resolve conflicts independently. We will also be learning to listen to other's viewpoints and ideas.

### Physical Development

We will be using our gross motor skills to plant outside.

In PE, we will be looking at throwing and catching. We will be listening to different types of music and discovering ways of moving to this. We will be writing words based on our interests and for a purpose.

### Communication and Language

This half term we will begin to understand humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes, being able to follow a story without pictures or prompts. We will be introducing a storyline or narrative into our play and listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.

### Understanding the World

The main focus for understanding the world is to explore building and growing. We are looking at the books 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Noah's Ark' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. These stories enable us to learn about building houses, boats and bridges. We will also look at materials that are strong and waterproof. For growing, we will be planting and looking at lifecycles of animals and humans, plus hatching chickens' eggs.

### Expressive Arts and Design

This half term we will enjoy creating Easter and Mother's Day crafts. We will also be exploring different textures, exploring the different sounds of instruments and beginning to build a repertoire of songs and dances. We will enjoy using junk modelling materials to create houses, boats and bridges.