

STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bar Lane Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5BJ

Part of Anglian Learning

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Elm Class, October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the second half of the Autumn Term! The children have made a really great start to their school life and I am very impressed with how settled they are. Here is the latest curriculum update for Elm Class.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me if you have any questions or concerns. The best time is at the end of the day, so if you would like to make an appointment to see me after school, please contact the school office or drop a note in the morning in order to arrange a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jayne Hore

Our Learning

Topics

Our topics in Reception are guided by the children's interests, although we do cover certain specific themes across the year, such as seasons, festivals and celebrations. Our learning theme for this term is "Come On, Let's Celebrate" focusing on celebrations and festivals of light, including Christmas. If your family celebrate a particular festival or tradition and you would like to share this with the class, we would love to welcome you into school to do this.

This term we will also be focusing on the scientific concept of light and dark. Attached you will find the topic web which provides an overview of this half term's learning. We send out a new overview each half term.

Phonics

The children have been making fantastic progress learning the phonemes that have been introduced to them last half term. In our daily phonics sessions we will continue to introduce phase 2 and 3 sounds and teach how to use these in our reading and writing. A reading and phonics information evening is being held virtually at 6pm on Tuesday 15th November. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Home reading books

We will continue to provide two types of books for the children to take home. These are:

- **a reading practise book** matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently. They should be able to read at least 95% of the words in these books. It may not be a different book every time; it may need to be the same book if your child still needs to develop fluency. They will have already read this book three times in school before bringing it home. These books need to be returned to school each Monday.
- **a sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. These books will be your child's choice and are to help develop a love of reading! These books need to be returned to school each Friday. The children also have access to active learn bug club for additional ebooks which are matched to their phonic knowledge.

P.E.

Mrs Cameron will be teaching the class P.E. lessons on Friday afternoons. Please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E. kit each Friday.

Homework

In Reception the children are not given formal homework, however parental support in this early stage has a huge impact on how they learn in school. I will continue to share the sounds and words we have been focusing on during the week and the handwriting sheets so your child can practise this learning at home. I will also occasionally send home additional suggestions for practical activities to do at home to enhance their school learning. I would love to see any work the children do at home.

Before half term I sent home log-in information about 'Mathletics' which is an online website we use for maths homework. It is great to see some of the children have already accessed this.

WOW Cards and Tapestry

Thank you so much for the WOW cards and Tapestry observations that you have already shared with us. It is really helping us to get to know your children even better and it has been lovely seeing how proud they are of themselves when we celebrate their WOWs. We've heard about fabulous reading and writing that the children have done at home, children riding on their bikes without stabilisers, and helping to look after their siblings. Please continue to share your child's achievements with us on the cards and if you need more, please let us know.



Important Dates

- Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th November – Parent Consultations
- Thursday 10th November – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents, September 2023
- Tuesday 15th November, 6.30pm – Phonics and Reading Parent Meeting
- 14th-17th November - Anti-bullying Week – Children wear odd socks to school on Monday 14th November.
- Friday 18th November – School closed for Inset Day
- Friday 16th December – Pantomime in school

Marvellous Moat Sessions

We will continue to visit the moat regularly for outdoor learning sessions. Outdoor learning is proven to have a huge impact on children's emotional, social and physical well-being as well as improving children's motivation, concentration and self-esteem. We will endeavour to visit the moat each Friday morning. We have enough waterproof trousers for every child and most of the children now have wellies kept in school. In winter, extra layers, thick woolly socks over their normal socks, a warm coat, gloves and a hat are advisable. If you have any questions about our outdoor learning, please let me know.



