



HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

20th February 2024

Dear Parents,

Reception Newsletter Spring 2 2024

Welcome back to Spring 2. We hope you had a lovely half term holiday. The children seem very happy to be back and are full of energy and excitement after their break.

Our topic this half term is 'Amazing Animals'. With the children's help our role-play areas have evolved into African safari camps, complete with safari jeeps. The children have already been busy spotting 'The Big Five'; the lion, elephant, water buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros as well as all sorts of other animals.

Timetable and Staffing

The timetable will continue as it did last half term, with daily English, maths and phonics sessions, Mandarin twice a week and PE on Thursdays. This still leaves lots of time for indoor and outdoor play, exploration and investigation.

English

We are continuing to plan a range of exciting activities based around books that we think the children will love. We will begin the half term by reading books set in Africa, including 'The Ugly Five' by Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler and 'We're going on a Lion Hunt' by David Axtell. We will also look at range of non-fiction books about African animals and create our own class safari books.

We will then read the wonderful book 'Dear Zoo', before moving on to 'The Little Red Hen' and other stories about farm animals. Finally we will focus on pet animals when the children will create their own guides to looking after pets.

Phonics

The children have been making great progress with the Little Wandle phonics scheme and have now learnt all the single letter sounds (phonemes) all the digraphs (two letters making one sound) and the trigraphs (three letters making one sound). We are practising the letter names as well as their sounds and continuing to learn how to read and write tricky words and also longer words by chunking them into smaller parts. We are delighted to see the children using their phonic knowledge more and more in their reading and writing and to see their confidence and fluency growing.

Reading

A feature of the Little Wandle scheme is that the children's reading groups are closely linked to the sounds they have learnt in phonics. The children have been loving the brand new reading books, which include both fiction to non fiction books on a huge range of subjects. They love reading each book three times over the week until they can read it with confidence. It is so exciting to see the progress the children are making and to see how proud they are to show how fluent they have become.



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Maths

This half term we will continue to practise our counting skills in our maths sessions. We will be investigating how many of something we can see and revisit the idea that the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether. We will also be continuing to compare groups of things and exploring the composition of numbers (what numbers fit inside other numbers). We will finally be opening up a 3D shape shop in the classroom and the children will explore all the elements that make up a 3D shape using language like faces, edges and corners.

Forest School

Reception Forest School got off to a great start last half term. The children know all about 'no picking no licking', the route to our site, including all the different waiting trees and what to do if we see a dog. They have jumped out of trees, balanced on logs, squelched in mud, built dens, left stick trails, watched squirrels and searched for insects.

There will be two sessions for each group this half term, beginning next week, so please put the dates below in your diary and let us know if you're able to come with us. As you know, we rely on volunteers and it is a lovely way to spend an afternoon with your child and their forest school friends. We are also always grateful for jars of instant hot chocolate powder (to stir into hot water) as well as help washing up the cups and packing away the waterproof suits afterwards. Thank you very much for your help.

Please make sure that your child is dressed suitably for the woods on Forest School days with warm comfortable clothing, a pair of wellies and extra socks.

Forest School Dates

RKJ Badgers	Monday 26 th Feb Monday 11 th March
RKJ Hedgehogs	Monday 4 th March Monday 18 th March
RRP Rabbits	Tuesday 20 th Feb Tuesday 12 th March
RRP Foxes	Tuesday 27 th Feb Tuesday 19 th March

Trip to Freightliners City Farm

We will be visiting Freightliners City Farm in week 6 of this half term on Monday 25th of March. We will travel by bus to the farm, which is off Holloway Road. A letter with more details will be emailed shortly, but please keep the date free to come with us if you can – we would love to have you!

Nature kitchen

Thank you very much for the contributions you make to our nature kitchen. We really appreciate the donations of herbs, petals, pinecones, leaves, shells and any other natural items that can enrich this area. Please continue to bring items in from your garden or walks in the woods. Thank you!





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Reminders:

- **Homework**

We will be continuing to send out homework on a Friday on Google Classroom and in books. We love seeing the creative work done by the children each week – and the children love the opportunity to share theirs with the class. It's also a wonderful way for you to get involved with your child's learning, so please keep the fantastic results coming! If you are experiencing any problems with logging on, please do let us know and we can help.

- **Spare clothes**

Please double-check that your child has a set of spare clothes at school, in the event that he or she needs to be changed. We also would love age-appropriate donations of spare underpants, leggings, joggers and socks for the school supply, as we often run very low.

- **Donations**

We greatly appreciate all donations of items from home that you bring in. At the moment in particular we are looking for:

Salt	Flour	Cream of tartar	vegetable oil	Instant hot chocolate
Nature Kitchen supplies		Junk modelling		Spare pants/knickers/socks/bottoms

- **Parental involvement**

We are very happy for parents to come into school and lead art, craft or cultural activities. Please feel welcome to come to us with ideas.

- **Hurrah Cards**

Please do ask for more 'Hurrah Cards' should you need them. These are for you to share a very special or significant achievement your child has made at home. We will read them and share them with the class.

Spring Term Important Dates

Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – Dress up as a character from a favourite book!
Friday 8 th March	One World Evening
Monday 25 th March	Reception Trip to Freightliners City Farm
Tuesday 26 th March	Parent consultations
Wednesday 27 th March	
Thursday 28 th March 3.30pm	Term ends

Thank you for all your support.

With very best wishes

The Reception Team



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