



Dear Reception Parents/carers,

On the first Friday of each term, you will receive a letter outlining the term ahead, containing the key information you will need to know. Some of this you will already know from our school newsletter which is sent via email each Friday. If you are not receiving the weekly newsletter, please email admin@sticklepath.org.uk to confirm you details.

Our Curriculum – Spring Term

In the Spring term, children continue to learn about similarities, differences and change in themselves, others and the world around them through a language focused curriculum.

This term we are beginning our learning journey on play projects. This is something we have developed at Sticklepath and continues with children into Year 1. Play projects uses four components of play to create a stage within which children can interact with shared, purposeful play. The four main components of play which are developed are: drawing, making, building and communicating. Through Play Projects, the children are taught a progression of key skills and vocabulary in each of the four areas of play. The children then use these skills collaboratively in play. Please see the upcoming Tapestry posts further explaining Play Projects.

We will also be investigating big questions through our enquiry curriculum such as:

“How does my body work? How do I look after my body? How have I already changed?”

Also this term we will be focusing on similarities, differences and change through a series of scientific investigations.

In the core areas, you will now see rapid progress in your child’s reading and writing skills. They will now begin to learn about digraphs (two letters that make one sound) when reading and build upon their letter formation and segmenting skills to write words and into sentences this term.

Sentence Frames - Reminder

We use sentence frames in many areas of learning. Here are a reminder of those that we shared at the start of the year.

Growth Mindset Sentence Frames

- **You try first and then I’ll help you**

This encourages the children to have a go at something even if they perceive it to be too hard. The process of trying and failing has a huge value in the learning process. Say this to your child every time they ask or wait for you to do something and then praise them for trying, regardless of the outcome.

- **I can't do it....yet!** Children learn about the power **yet**. If your child says I can't do it. You say "I can't do it yet." This is key to your child understanding that there is lots they currently can't do but with practice and effort they will be able to do it in the future.
- **Practice makes you better.** We want the children to understand the getting better is more important than the traditional phrase "practice makes perfect." We teach the children that they may practice and practice something and still not achieve a goal. They need to know that that is ok and that each practice is leading to improvement.

Relationships Sentence Frames

- **Please can I have it after you?** We teach the children to use this sentence when they want something that someone else has. The child being asked then has three choices:
 - 1.) Give it straight away
 - 2.) Play with it for longer and then give it to the person who asked
 - 3.) Play with it together (This is the one we encourage the most)
- **Stop I don't like that.** We teach the children that if someone is doing something you don't like you need to say "**Stop I don't like that.**" If the child stops then they have sorted the problem themselves without needing help from an adult. If the child does not stop, then they get an adult to help talk through the problem and learn from it.
- **First Then.....** We use this sentence frame to support the children with ordering events and helping them feel safe and secure. E.g First we line up, then playtime.

Tapestry

Thank you for your engagement with Tapestry. We can see how regularly you are logging in. We hope you find the posts useful to supporting your child. Please know you can talk to us if you have any questions at all.

Home Learning

We do ask that you read to and with your child on a daily basis. Reading is so crucial in developing early language and language development by the end of Reception is proven to be a huge indicator of later academic achievement. We will continue to use Tapestry to update you on how best to support your child with reading as they progress through different stages. Your child will be given a new book when they read their current book fluently, using their taught skills. Practice and repetition is key to develop this. Often, children will achieve this over a week but we may send home the same book for a second week if we feel further practice is required.

Library

LWA – Wednesday
MPA – Thursday

Please make sure your child has their library book on this day to return and swap.

PE

For the Spring term, we continue to do PE lessons on a **Thursday**. Please send your child to school in school PE kit (red sticklepath T-shirt / black shorts or joggers) on a Thursday and they can stay in their kit all day. Please ensure correct school uniform is worn on all other days.

Food

Fruit – We provide free fruit daily but the fruit differs from day to day. You are welcome to send your child with a fruit snack of your own if you wish to do so.

Lunch – School meals are provided free of charge for all children up to and including Year 2. However, if you would prefer to send your child in with a packed lunch on certain days, you are entitled to do so.

Key Dates

Wednesday 18th January – Aladdin Pantomime at School

Wednesday 31st January - Anchor Woods Walk (further email to follow)

Please send your child with a pair of named wellies on this day.

Polite Reminders - Please make sure:

- Children do not put their water bottle in their book bags as they will receive school reading books next week. These often get damaged from leaking water bottles.
- Please bring a named water bottle everyday.
- Have a coat in school everyday as we like to go out for fresh air in all weathers and support your child to put it on and zip it up by themselves. It's a great opportunity to use our "You try first and then I'll help you" sentence frame.
- All items of clothing are clearly named with your child's name.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy 2024.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes,

The Reception Team