



# Uffculme Primary School




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## Summer 1st 2024 CLASS NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Reception,

We hope that you had a really lovely Easter break. This half-term our topic is based around 'Growing and planting'. This is what we will be learning about:

Area of learning	What we hope to find out and learn
Communication and Language	Re-tell stories in our own words and develop a rich story language. Develop our questioning skills and answering 'why' questions and explaining our understanding and experiences.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Further developing our teamwork skills and taking account of each other's ideas. Talk about activities that we like doing and why and begin to talk about what we are good at and our abilities. Learn and talk about making healthy choices including food and brushing our teeth and looking after ourselves.
Physical Development – fine motor skills	Practising forming lower case and capital letters correctly, using the correct pencil grip, further developing our skills in drawing, using scissors and zips and buttons.
PE	Athletics and games- rounders and cricket
Literacy – Key texts	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>How Things Grow by Felicity Brooks</p> <p>Jack and the Beanstalk By Mara Alperin</p>   </div> </div>
Literacy	Writing short sentences using capital letters, full stops and clear finger spaces. Use story maps and puppets to help us sequence and re-tell stories. Create our own class version of familiar stories and write instructions to grow cress.
Literacy – phonics/reading	Consolidate Phase 3 phonics and move on to Phase 4. We will be using the sounds that we have previously learnt to read and write words with a focus on longer words (e.g. words ending in 'ing' and 'es'), words with double letters and words containing two or more digraphs. We will also be learning new tricky words when we start Phase 4 of our phonics scheme – see below.
Mathematics (following NCETM)	<p><b>Number</b> – developing confidence in counting strategies, recognising differences in number names e.g. between 'teen' and '-ty' numbers. Investigating different ways of representing 10. Comparing numbers that are far apart, near and next to each other.</p> <p><b>Shape, space and measure</b> – exploring pattern and symmetry, using time to sequence events, recognising and describing the properties of shapes.</p>

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Understanding the World	Learning about how plants grow and how to ensure the right conditions. Identifying the different parts of plants and naming some flowers and herbs. We will be growing cress and exploring the life cycle of a butterfly. We will be learning about Kings and Queens as well as how farm machinery and vehicles have changed over time.
RE	<b>Which stories are special and why?</b> – Exploring our favourite stories and listen to and talk about Bible stories and what these stories teach believers.
Computing	Using computers to support our learning through taking photos to show a timeline of events such as our cress growing. Using Tizzy’s tools on the computers and using the mouse to select colours and size of brushes to create pictures and mark make using the program.
Expressive Arts and Design	Create models and different types of structures including castles using a variety of construction materials and junk modelling. Explore different brush strokes when painting and choose when to use them appropriately to create different effects. Playing imaginatively and building narratives into our play with others. Using puppets, the ‘Vets’ and ‘Garden centre’ role-play areas and developing social phrases.
Music	Taking part in a variety of pulse, rhythm and pitch games all based around a piece of music called <b>Big Bear Funk</b> . Children will choose phrases and rhythms from the song and rehearse and perform them on a variety of classroom instruments.

## Show and Tell

The children have been keen to bring items in from home to show the class and talk about why they are special to them. This is a great opportunity to further develop the children’s communication and questioning skills. With this in mind, for the next 5 weeks, each child will have the opportunity to bring in something from home to share with the class. This might be, for example, a photo of somewhere that they have been, a picture that they have drawn or a natural object or special item. We will do our best to make sure that items are looked after and are returned safely back to you on the same day but just to be on the safe side, please don’t send things in that might be easily broken or that are particularly precious or valuable.

Please see below for a timetable of when your child can bring an item in to show the class. We have organised this into the children’s class animal groups so please ask your child to tell you what group they are in. If they are unsure, then please come and speak to one of us.

Date:	Animal Group:
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Giraffes
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Snakes
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Lions
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Elephants
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Zebras





## Super sentences

Over the next few weeks, we will start having 'Super Sentences' sessions where we focus on writing sentences and particularly using correct letter formation and capital letters and full stops. The children are really excited about this especially as at the end of each week, we will choose children who have made fantastic progress over the week, to be our 'Superstar writer's'. They will be awarded with a 'Superstar writing' sticker. This is a great way of encouraging the children to focus on their handwriting and take real pride in their achievements.

## HOMEWORK IN RECEPTION

Thank you everyone for your support with completing the reading tasks with your child. It is really clear to see the progress that the children are making, particularly when they are practising this with you at home as well. **Please can we emphasise that the children should be reading at home, 3 times a week and this should be recorded in their reading record. We will then award the children with a homework Dojo each week when they complete the 3 reads.** Here is a reminder of the reading homework in Reception:

### Reading tasks

All children will continue to bring home 2 books every week:

#### Sharing Book

This is a book that your child will have chosen to share at home and enjoy building up a story with you. Your child will not be able to read this book on their own. We will change these books on a Monday so please make sure that it is in your child's bookbag every Monday.

#### Reading Practice Book

This is a book that has been matched to your child's current reading level and will only include letter sounds that they have learned in school. Your child will read this book with an adult in school 3 times a week (Monday-Wednesday) and then bring this book home on a Wednesday to read with you. We will then collect this book in the following Wednesday.

Your child will also have their own reading record. We would like your child to read their book with you three times a week and then please record each read clearly in the reading record. This just needs to be the date, title of the book and a signature. Please also add a reading comment if this is appropriate. We will check the reading records every Wednesday and we will award your child with a sticker if they have completed three home reads of the reading practice book.

## Phonics programme

This programme shows the progression of GPC's (grapheme-phoneme-correspondence) and tricky words that we will teach over the Summer term in Reception. All of the graphemes taught are practised in words, sentences, and in fully decodable reading books. Children review and revise GPC's and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.



Summer Term – review of <b>Phase 2</b> and <b>Phase 3</b> graphemes	Summer Term – review of <b>Phase 3</b> Tricky words
<b>qu ch sh th ng nk</b>	<b>all are by my pure sure they was you</b>
<b>ai ee igh oa oo oo ar or ur ow oi ear air er</b>	<b>Summer Term - Phase 4 Tricky words</b>
	<b>said so have like some come love do were here little says there when what one today out</b>
We will be using the sounds that we have previously learnt to read and write words with a focus on longer words (e.g words ending in 'ing' and 'es'), words with double letters and words containing two or more digraphs.	

Water bottles and snack

Please can you send a water bottle into school every day for your child. It is really important that they have access to water throughout the day and a bottle in the classroom ensures that water is readily available (**no squash or juice please**). Please label the bottle with your child’s name. Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable every day for snack but if your child would like to bring in their own snack instead, they can bring in a piece of fruit or veg from home.

PE and Music

PE lessons will be taken by Mr Carpanini and will be on a Thursday and Friday. A reminder that your child needs: black shorts, red polo-shirt and daps. When the weather is colder, they may need black tracksuit bottoms. Please ensure that all PE kit is clearly labelled and carried in a named bag. For health and safety reasons, jewellery must be removed for P.E; this includes earrings.

Mrs Pethick will be teaching the children Music on Wednesdays.

We are really looking forward to another exciting half term and being able to use our outdoor learning space as we explore our topic of ‘Planting and growing’.

With very best wishes,

Mrs R Sharpe  
Reception Teacher



Key dates:

<b>MAY</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>		May Day Bank Holiday – <b>No school</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>		KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May		Ambition Day
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 - Half Term Break</b>		
<b>JUNE</b>		
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	New Intake parents meeting
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>		Whole school and class photographs
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> EYFS Transition visit
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	3:45pm	Summer Music Concert
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 3pm	PTFA Summer Fete
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> EYFS Transition visit
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>		Year 4 Residential - Kilve
<b>JULY</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	2pm	KS2 Production Dress rehearsal
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:40pm	Year 6 Transition day to Uffculme School Meet and Greet with new teachers
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30PM	KS2 Evening Performance (The Venue)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Sports Day (Uffculme School)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Mix Festival (KS2 only)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>		Year 6 Residential – Charter House
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>		Summer Reports sent home
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Year 6 Leavers Assembly followed by BBQ on field (for Year 6 only)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Last day of term
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Summer Holidays</b>		

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