



Re. AR/LL 17.02.17

Foundation Newsletter - February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

WOW! We are halfway through our Spring Term and that also means that your children have been at 'big school' for 6 months and they are also half way through their first year at Bransgore. Haven't they all done so well, we are enormously proud of their development and the progress made by all of them.

After an exciting 'Where am I?' theme to our learning last half term, we are moving on to thinking about animals and life cycles in our 'All creatures great and small' topic. Throughout this half term we will continue to explore different countries around the world, particularly focussing on the animals that originate there. Our exploration of different creatures will take us from the largest dinosaurs to the smallest minibeasts, and the deepest oceans to the warmest savannahs. As with our previous topics we will continue to encourage the children's discovery of a range of different texts this half term with books from Johnny Duddle, Giles Andre, Dr Seuss and many more. We would like to invite you in to share this learning on the Friday 7th April at 2:30pm.



Read Write Inc.



It is so rewarding to see that all the children are now bringing books home to share with you, this is due to their resilience and perseverance to develop their sound knowledge, we are all really proud of how well they are doing. Please continue to celebrate this with your children through the books they bring home on a Friday and the online books available through BugClub. Support them to look carefully at the sounds and blend them to form the words, going back over the sentences to increase fluency in their reading.

This half term the children will be encouraged to increase the level of independent writing they are producing, as this will enable them to 'show off' their sound knowledge and the application of their phonics. I would ask that you encourage them to do this at home as well and prompt the children to bring any independent writing in to share with us at school. As always if you have any questions please ask.

Storytime

Thank you to all the parents that have regularly supported the children's love of literature through the fortnightly storytime. As we prepare your children for Year 1, this half term will be the last storytime sessions of the year. Lions will be on the 1st, 15th and 29th March at 2:45pm. Tigers will be on the 8th and 22nd March at 2:45 pm.

Forest Schools

We have had a busy few weeks at our Forest School site, exploring different media and artists. This half term we will be thinking about animals in the forest; who might live there, what they might eat and how we can help them.



Forest school forms part of our Early Years curriculum, it is a unique opportunity and provides children with important resilience and team working skills. The Forest School ethos is about the child leading in their learning and developing their self esteem. All the adults that support your child in the experience ensure that your child will be able to engage fully with all the activities, often exploring new and interesting experiences.



January was a particularly cold month in the woods and some of the children struggled with this, therefore please make sure children have warm and waterproof clothing available on their respective days. As a reminder Tiger's sessions will be on Tuesdays commencing 28th February and Lion's will be on Thursdays from the 9th March (no Forest School on the 2nd March because of World Book Day). There are no sessions week commencing Monday 3rd April. Thank you once again for your continued support in enabling us to offer this to the children.

Uniform

We like our children to wear school uniform because we feel that it helps them to identify with the school, look smart and to take pride in being a member of the school community. It is easier to identify ourselves as a group with shared values and reinforces our view that everyone is equally important. Please continue to ensure that your child's attire is appropriate for school, including hair accessories for girls. As a reminder from the recent letter from Mr Brown, P.E. Kit should consist of:

- Royal blue shadow stripe shorts
- White tee shirt with/without printed school logo
- Plimsolls indoors and trainers for outdoor PE.
- Dark tracksuits for games in winter

Ensure any items brought in are clearly labelled so that we may return them in the event of them being misplaced.

It is a pleasure to be part of your child's schooling journey, if we can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please always remember to just ask.

Thank you so much for your continued support, please continue to update us on your child's developments at home through Tapestry and follow their adventures at school through our Twitter feed and blog posts.

Aidan Richards
Foundation Phase Leader