



Reception Newsletter – Spring 1

Welcome

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. Thank you for your ongoing support at home, we are really noticing the children's progress in phonics and writing. The start of 2026 will be kicking off with a space topic, and we can't wait to go to infinity and beyond!

Phonics and Reading

Phonics

This half term, we will begin phase 3 digraphs. We will be learning:

Week 1 ai ee igh oa

Week 2 oo oo ar or

Week 3 ur ow oi ear

Week 4 air er words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff

Week 5 longer words

We will recap tricky words from autumn, as well as learning new tricky words. These will include:

was you they my by all are sure pure he we me be

The children will continue to have a **library book** that will be changed each week, currently on a Monday. This is a **reading for pleasure book** so there is no expectation that the children will read this independently – it's simply for you to enjoy together. They will also continue to have a decodable book that is closely matched to their phonic level. Can you please make sure that **reading books and reading diaries** are kept in book bags and are brought into school **EVERY DAY** so we can track and monitor children's progress.

Literacy

In Literacy, we will be continuing to explore **CVC words** (consonant, vowel, consonant), as well as using our **tricky words** to begin to form short sentences. We will explore storytelling using story maps and we will use actions to help recount events, focusing on the beginning, middle and end of a story. Our topic this term is **'To Infinity and Beyond'** so we will be using lots of space themed books as a stimulus for our writing. Texts will include, 'The Way





'Back Home', 'Aliens Wear Underpants' and 'Whatever Next'. We will also be carrying out a **mini topic** based on **Winter**, and we will be using 'Elmer in the Snow' to spark the children's curiosity about seasonal changes.

Maths



In Mastering Number, we will be focusing on dice patterns, matching numerals to **quantities within 5**, using the staircase pattern to determine that each number is one more than the previous and exploring values 6 and 7 as '5 and a bit'. We will also be looking at '**more than**', '**fewer than**' and '**equal to**' when comparing groups of objects.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will be learning about how to **take care of ourselves**, including recognising the feelings that might have when we are unsafe and talking about how to **stay safe online**.

Physical Development



This term, the children will participate in PE lessons on a Thursday morning. We will continue to learn how to **hold a pencil** using our 'three friends' grip, and we will be practising different letter formations each week.

We will also continue to develop strength in our outdoor area using a range of different resources for building, and we will make good use of the trikes, bikes and trim trail to develop our **gross motor skills**.

Understanding the World



This term, the children will be exploring **winter** through a seasonal **winter walk**, observing how the environment changes. They will build on their knowledge of **autumn**, comparing similarities and differences between the two seasons. In RE, the children will learn about special books and focus on the story of **Noah's Ark**, learning about the animals entering two by two and the rainbow as a symbol of hope. These experiences will help them make meaningful connections between the natural world and stories from **Christianity**.

Expressive Arts and Design



This term in Expressive Arts and Design, children will enjoy **finger painting snowflakes**, **painting to music**, and learning fun **winter dance routines**. These activities will help them express the season creatively through art, sound, and movement.

Helping your child learn at home

Please continue to listen to your child read as often as possible and record notes about their progress in their reading diaries, which are checked regularly





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for feedback. It is important that **reading books and diaries are brought into school every day**. We also encourage you to support your child's independence by helping them practise putting on their own coats, zipping them up, and putting on their shoes. When writing at home, please ensure your child is using the **tripod grip**.

Enrichment

We will be going on a winter walk, making observations about seasonal changes and drawing some of the signs of winter that we encounter. We will also be watching a whole school pantomime, based on the story 'Robin Hood'.



Rewards

The children will continue to receive 'Dojo Points' as a reward for good behaviour, work and attitude.

Thank you for your on-going support at home – we always love to see what the children have been up to outside the classroom.



Class information

Fuchsias Class Teacher: Mrs Meehan (Mon - Thurs) and Mrs Esler (Fri)

lmeehan@corbyprimaryacademy.org

resler@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Sunflowers Class Teacher: Mrs Esler (Mon-Tues) and Mrs Turner (Weds-Fri)

resler@corbyprimaryacademy.org

cturner@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Supported by: Mrs Reeves, Miss McQueen and Miss Rosborough



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To keep books and letters in good condition, we ask that all children bring a bag to school every day so that we can update their books and to send home any letters or resources. Please do not allow your child to bring any toys from home to school so that they do not get lost.

Please remember to name your child's school jumper or cardigan.

Also hats and gloves if possible.

Don't forget to send your child with a named drink for the classroom each day. (Nothing fizzy or milk based please)

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts or honey.

Dates for the diary!



Monday 5th January - INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January - School reopens to pupils.

Thursday 15th January - Book and Biscuit session 2.40pm

Wednesday 21st January - Whole school panto - Robin Hood

Friday 6th February - NSPCC Whole School Number Day- timings tbc

Monday 9th February - Mental Health Week - wear yellow

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

Thursday 12th February - Valentine's Day disco - timings tbc

Friday 13th February - school closes for Half Term.