



Reception Newsletter – Summer 1

Welcome

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and are feeling refreshed, recharged, and ready for another action-packed term. Our new topic, *In the Garden*, is the perfect opportunity to explore minibests, planting and growing, and the beautiful transition from spring into summer. There will be plenty of hands-on learning, outdoor adventures, and exciting discoveries as we watch the world around us come to life.

Phonics and Reading

Phonics

This half term, we will be revisiting all the sounds we have learned so far to help build confidence and fluency. Our reading sessions will take place straight after phonics, giving children the chance to apply their learning immediately and read using the sounds taught in that day's lesson. We will continue to learn and revisit our Tricky Words, and our spelling activities will link closely to both phonics and these Tricky Words to support continued progress.

Literacy

In Literacy, we will continue writing labels and sentences linked to familiar texts, including *Superworm*, *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*, *The Scarecrow's Wedding*, and *Sam Plants a Seed*. Please keep encouraging your child to practise writing their name at home, focusing on correct letter formation and using the correct, tripod pencil grip.

We are also excited to explore a range of non-fiction texts in our weekly reading focus this term. Children will be finding out more about minibests, plants, gardening, and the nature in our local environment, helping them build both knowledge and curiosity.

Maths



In Mastering Number, we will continue to develop our counting skills, explore different ways to represent numbers, and compare quantities with increasing confidence. This term, we will be counting larger sets of objects and practising counting backwards, helping children build a strong sense of number order.

Towards the end of the term, the children will begin using a *Rekenrek* (similar to an abacus). This resource supports children in understanding how numbers up to 10 and 20 can be made in different ways, building strong foundations for addition and subtraction.

At home, please continue to encourage mathematical talk wherever possible. This might include playing simple board games with dice, spotting patterns, measuring ingredients while cooking, or noticing numbers and shapes in different environments. These small, everyday experiences make a big difference to children's confidence with maths.

Communication and Language



This term, we will be focusing on our garden and exploring how nature can enrich our play. The children will work in teams to build games, helping them develop vocabulary, language, and confident conversational skills. We will also continue to explore imaginative scenarios in our Small World and Role Play areas, encouraging rich communication and meaningful language development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



This term in PSHE, we will be using our *In the Garden* topic to help children explore their feelings and develop growing independence. Just like plants need care to thrive, we will be supporting children to recognise and talk about their emotions, manage frustrations, and find calm strategies when things feel tricky. We will also be encouraging them to take greater responsibility for looking after themselves—managing their own belongings, developing toilet independence, and practising simple self-care routines. These small steps help children build confidence and resilience as they continue to blossom throughout the term. Please continue to encourage these skills as much as possible at home.

Physical Development



This term, we will continue to formalise our PE sessions as part of the transition into Year 1. Our weekly Yoga sessions will now be phased out and replaced by a **Monday afternoon PE session in the hall**, so children **will only need their PE kits on Mondays** from now on. We will keep practising our 'three friends' pencil grip and focus on forming different letters each



week to build confident early writing skills. Outdoors, the children will continue to strengthen their muscles through a range of building activities, as well as taking part in some exciting gardening projects.

Understanding the World



This term in Understanding the World, our *In the Garden* topic will lead us into exciting learning about minibeasts and the natural world. We will explore a range of non-fiction texts, go on a minibeast hunt, and even create our own bug hotel to observe tiny creatures up close. The children will also be planting seeds and discovering what plants need to grow and thrive. As part of our RE learning, we will be finding out about weddings and why they are special celebrations.

Expressive Arts and Design



In Art, we will be exploring a range of tools and media to create vibrant, minibeast-themed artwork. The children will also be learning and performing traditional rhymes such as *Incy Wincy Spider* and *Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary*. Our indoor role-play area will be transformed into a flower shop, giving the children opportunities to develop imaginative play linked to our *In the Garden* topic. We will be using nature as inspiration—looking closely at patterns on minibeasts and small animals and experimenting with ways to recreate these in our own designs. The children will also explore colour, shape, and detail in flowers as they develop their artistic skills.

Helping your child learn at home



To support your child's growing independence as they prepare for the transition into Year 1, we encourage families to give children small opportunities at home to practise doing things for themselves, such as putting on their own coat and shoes, cutting their own food, tidying away their belongings, and helping with simple routines. Please continue to **read together every day** and **revisit the tricky words regularly**; all children have now been given a tricky-word sheet, but if you need a replacement just let us know. Practising writing at home using the correct pencil grip and letter formation, as well as forming numbers accurately, will really help build confidence. These little moments of independence and practice make a big difference to your child's readiness for the next stage of their learning.

Enrichment



This term, the children will enjoy a range of exciting enrichment experiences linked to our *In the Garden* topic. We will be taking part in a hands-on minibeast workshop, giving the children the chance to explore and handle real creatures up close. We are also looking forward to our trip to Scarewell Farm, where the children can learn more about animals and life on the farm - further details about this visit will be shared soon.



Rewards

The children will continue to receive 'Dojo Points' as 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: Mr Moir (Mon-Thurs) and Mrs Turner (Fri)

mmoir@corbyprimaryacademy.org

cturner@corbyprimaryacademy.org



CORBY PRIMARY ACADEMY

Supported by: Mrs Reeves, Miss McQueen, Mrs Irvine and Miss Rosborough

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.

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

Now we have the warmer weather please do feel free to give your child a sun hat, glasses and sunscreen.

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

Summer 1



Monday 13th April – school reopens to pupils

Monday 20th April – Y4 residential to PGL

Thursday 23rd April - Book & Biscuit session (Nursery/Reception & KS1) 2.40pm

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday

Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May - KS2 SATs Week

W/B 18th May Careers Week

Thursday 21st May – Beach Party (Reception/KS1 & KS2)

Friday 22nd May – Y6 Takeover Day

Friday 22nd May – Year group newsletters / school closes to pupils for Half Term



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