



# Spring Term in Reception

January 2017

We have lots of exciting things planned this term. We are pleased with the progress the children have made so far. This term we will be enjoying two whole school topics; 'One World' and 'Up up .....and away!'

## **One World (Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Term)**

In this topic we will be thinking about similarities and differences around the world. In Literacy, we will be learning about our bodies and keeping healthy. In Maths, children will explore 2D shapes and will look at different flags around the world, thinking about the shapes used on them. We will compare the weight of different objects and use language to describe them, e.g. heavy or light. We will also continue to look at a range of festivals and learn about how they are celebrated.

## **Up up..... and away (Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Term)**

In the second part of Spring term we will be thinking about different modes of transport. We will look at the height of different vehicles and compare shortest to tallest. Children will go to the playground and measure a journey that they take using non-standard measures, for example, string and footsteps. In Maths, they will also learn how to subtract numbers using a range of practical resources. In Literacy, children will go on various journeys around the school environment and write postcards and make journey sticks. We will celebrate Easter, Mother's Day and Holi festival.

**A reminder of our upcoming topics is below:**

Spring 1st	Spring 2nd	Summer 1st	Summer 2nd
One World	Up up...and away	Who? What? Where?	Dream big!

## **Morning Routines**

We are pleased that most of the children are now entering the classroom independently in the mornings and we encourage them to continue these routines. It is therefore important to ensure that you arrive promptly at the gate each morning so that children continue to develop their independence. The classroom is open from 8:40am each morning and all children are expected to be in their room by 8:50am.

## **Regular Arrangements**

If your child is going to be picked up from school by a named person/or organisation as part of a regular arrangement, please ensure you have updated your regular collection form with the office. Please remember for any pick-ups that are not regular arrangements, or are not in the 'Going-Home book', the person collecting will need to provide the emergency password.

## **Personal belongings**

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name; clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes, book bags and peg bags. Show and tell is an opportunity to share exciting achievements or to share special memories or events from home. Please **do not** send your child to school with any toys from home.

## Independence

We are really encouraging the children to do their own coats up and to use cutlery when eating at lunchtimes. Please support your child(ren) with this at home by practising these skills. This will enable them to develop their independence and speed up daily routines.

## Speed Reading

We will continue to send home Speed Reads every Monday. Children are given sounds to practise, or simple words, which relate to what they are learning in phonics lessons. It is important that children are blending the sounds together. This will help them develop their skills for reading. If your child is ready to write their speed read words at home please encourage them to do this. If you are unsure of how to pronounce any of the sounds please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

## Library

Library books will continue to be changed every **Monday**. Please return your child's library book, in the named plastic folder, every **Monday** in order to borrow another book.

## Phonics

As discussed in our meeting, we teach Phonics daily and the children learn new sounds and words each week. We use Read Write Inc. rhymes and flashcards to teach the sounds. We teach fun and active games for the children to develop a range of skills. It is really important for the children to be pronouncing the sounds correctly. There are videos on <http://mrthorne.com/> which demonstrate how to say the sounds correctly and Alphablocks (shown on the TV and on the internet) is another great resource for the children to hear sounds correctly and teach them the skill of blending (adding sounds together to read a word).

## Resources

Below are links to some resources that you might find helpful at home to support your child with Phonics.

[Phase 2 sound mat](#)

[Phase 3 sound mat](#)

[Phase 5 sound mat](#)

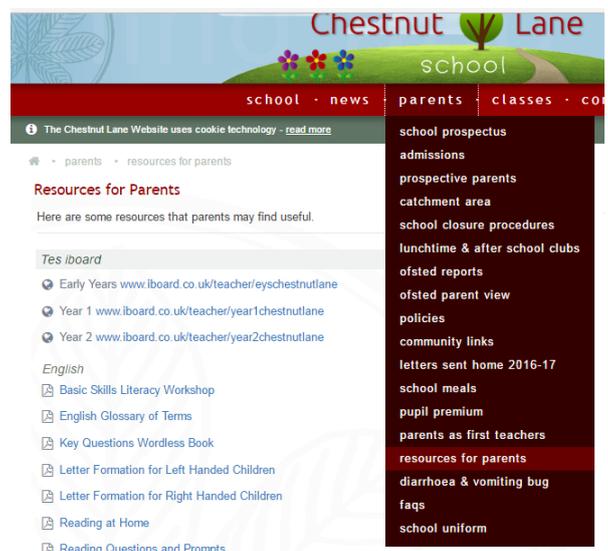
[Letter formation sheet for right handed children](#)

[Letter formation sheet for left handed children](#)

[Read Write Inc. rhymes sheet](#)

The above links can also be found on the school website as shown to the right.

We are looking forward to another exciting term!



The screenshot shows the website for Chestnut Lane school. The header includes the school name and navigation links for 'school', 'news', 'parents', and 'classes'. A 'Resources for Parents' section is highlighted, containing a list of links such as 'Tes iBoard', 'Early Years', 'Year 1', 'Year 2', 'English', 'Basic Skills Literacy Workshop', 'English Glossary of Terms', 'Key Questions Wordless Book', 'Letter Formation for Left Handed Children', 'Letter Formation for Right Handed Children', 'Reading at Home', and 'Reading Questions and Prompts'. A sidebar menu on the right lists various school-related topics like 'school prospectus', 'admissions', 'catchment area', 'ofsted reports', and 'school uniform'.

*Miss Flitney, Miss Vacher and the Early Years Team*

### Questions asked at the Topic Meeting:

1. Can you sound out 'tricky words'?
  - No, tricky words are to be learnt by sight.
2. Where is the going home book?
  - Miss Flitney and Miss Vacher hold them in their hand every morning at the gate.
3. Is there another Parent's Evening?
  - You should have received a letter informing you that we are trialling a new arrangement this year. We will be offering parent workshops instead of formal consultations.
4. Where can we suggest ideas for topics?
  - Topic webs are designed to share your ideas of topics and your child's ideas about current topics.

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

We have introduced different phrases to get the children thinking about how they are learning. Below are the posters that are displayed in the Forest and Hive classrooms.

