



THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

What is happening in Reception this Half Term?

Half Term beginning 19 April 2010

Welcome back parents and children! We hope you all had a restful holiday.

Literacy

This term the children will continue to build upon and develop their knowledge of the Jolly Phonics sounds, alternative sounds and tricky words, incorporating these skills in their reading and writing. We will be focusing on a Fairy Tale book every week, stimulating the children's imagination and developing their ability to write books, lists, poems and letters of their very own and deepening their understanding of print conventions. If you have any Fairy Tale books that you wish to share with the class, please send them in with your child. We will be beginning to emphasise the importance of the use of basic punctuation in their writing with greater frequency. During our handwriting sessions, capital letters will be making their first appearance and we will revise the formations of lowercase letters, in particular, focusing upon those which we know are still tricky for a large number of children (step up 'b' and 'd!'). Each child will have the opportunity to take the class pet (soft toy!) home during the term and will be able to record their shared experiences in the class book.

The children will continue to read individually to an adult and with their Year Two buddy.

Please Note:

Monday	Book sent home.	Friday's book returned.
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Book sent home.	Monday's book returned.
Thursday		Dictation returned by Thursday.
Friday	Unseen book sent home. Dictation sent home.	Wednesday's book returned.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

This half term the Numeracy topic is called "Number Games and Story Problems." We will be playing various number games, some of which we have touched on in class before, but in much more depth.

We will continue to focus on using the children's ideas and methodology as our starting point, but will place more emphasis on recording our number investigations using conventional mathematical symbols (+, -, =).

During this topic, you can help your child by playing the Maths games and number investigations that will be sent home. Involving your child in any practical number work, when out of school, is always beneficial. For instance, 'How many pennies do I have in my change?', 'How many ways can you make 10 using these buttons, pebbles or counters?'

Generally all the games and activities aim to enable children to combine or subtract numbers successfully and to introduce pupils to more orthodox

methods of recording their ideas and solutions to number problems. Finally, so that you are not completely baffled when your child describes new games that they have played, it might be useful to know some of the names of the games: 'Pictures of 10', 'On and Off', 'Tens go Fish' & 'Counting by Kangaroos'. Hopefully you too will have great fun playing these games at home!

Knowledge and Understanding

Our topic this half term is 'Mini-Beasts' in all their creepy-crawly glory. We will be welcoming our many-legged friends (and those who have no legs to speak of - we won't discriminate!) into our classroom to live for a while in the mini-beast corner, so please do begin to collect - the more the merrier! We will have caterpillars arriving any day now and will be avidly watching for their amazing transformation. Our tadpoles have arrived and with care, we hope to watch them transform into frogs! Our ability to observe closely over a period of time and make predictions will develop alongside our capability to question and explore. We will use hands-on experiences, including a mini-beast hunting activity, pond-dipping trip, and ICT to support our learning. We will also be continuing to develop our ability to plan, design and construct using a variety of materials to create mini-beasts galore.

Parent Meetings:

If you feel at any time you would like to come and discuss your child's progress with the Form Teacher, we are available before and after school.

School Inspection

The Phoenix School is due to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in the coming months. ISI inspections operate on a short notice basis and the school will be given one week's notice of the start date. Once we have been informed of our date, we will be emailing parents a questionnaire from ISI. We would be extremely grateful if all parents complete this questionnaire as it is an opportunity to share your thoughts about our school.

Date to remember:

- Excursion to Waterlow Park on Friday 21st May 2010. Letter to follow closer to the date.

Reminders:

- Swimming begins on Tuesday 20th April 2009. Collection from Frogna UCS.
- Please send lunch in a disposable bag every Tuesday and Friday.
- Sports dress on Tuesdays and Fridays (track bottoms, sweatshirts, trainers and always a waterproof coat in case it rains).

It promises to be an extremely busy and fun half term!

Many thanks

The Reception Team