



Early Years Talk-Talk

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021



**TOGETHER  
— IS —  
A BEAUTIFUL  
PLACE TO BE**

### Message from Mrs Grainger

It has been wonderful this week to see all the children appearing happy and returning to school. This is the first step in life beginning to return back to normal and it's very exciting! Our attention turns to how we will approach the remaining weeks of the Spring term. We are very aware that this has been a challenging time for all, but we are also aware that children have had very different experiences at home. As we get re-acquainted with the children, staff will focus on identifying and addressing any safeguarding, mental health, social interaction, speech, communication, basic skills or other concerns. This will not solely happen in Week 1 of the return to school but be an ongoing process. For those children who have struggled, we will offer support emotionally as well as in their learning.

The first week will see a focus on the following:

- Reviewing Covid Classroom Charter and safety precautions
- Re-establishing rules and expectations,
- Well-being of pupils,
- Mental Health
- Characteristics of Learning;
- Positive learning behaviours

Subsequent weeks will see staff revisit all of the above and offer support as needs are identified. Our Personal Social and Health Education programme – Jigsaw, will continue to be taught and used to offer an extra time which is dedicated to the well-being of pupils.

After an initial settling in period, teachers will assess children's learning. This will take place in line with our normal arrangements for the end of the Spring term to establish gaps in learning. Staff will also use their understanding of the children in our community and work completed during school closure to enable preparation of work for Summer term. This initial data and on entry information will enable us to ensure gaps in learning are identified and addressed.

Teachers will continue to teach the 'Chadsmead Curriculum' through Quality First Teaching. Group and individual support will be offered where needed to ensure our high-quality curriculum is maintained. Every lesson will revisit previous skills and build upon knowledge covered in the Autumn as well as re-capping key points from the remote learning.

We have decided that weekly homework will be suspended until the end of the Spring term to enable children and families to have a period of readjustment to these changes again. However, children should maintain their weekly spelling practise, times table recall and daily reading. Children will be given creative theme homework relating to the summer theme over the Easter holidays as normal. Congratulations to everyone, children, parents and staff who have all worked so very hard throughout the lockdown. We look forward to some brighter news in the coming weeks.

### Message from Early Years

Welcome back to school everyone ☺

We would like to say how proud we are of all the children with settling back into the school routine. It is amazing how much they can remember! We have really enjoyed seeing and playing with our friends again.

This week has been Science Week and we have completed two exciting activities linked to our theme. We explored magnets and sequenced the life cycle of a butterfly. We explained what the 4 stages are and used a magnet to move the arrow around the cycle.

The second activity involved Humpty Dumpty. We built a wall using Duplo and experimented to see which materials would be best to stop Humpty from cracking. Before the experiment we made predictions as a class. The materials that we used were felt material, wood, bricks, feathers, beanbags, metal tray, foam shapes and hay. It was very EGGGGGGciting ☺ In literacy we have been exploring the story 'The Little Red Hen'. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be reading the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and completing lots of activities linked to the story.

### Reception in need

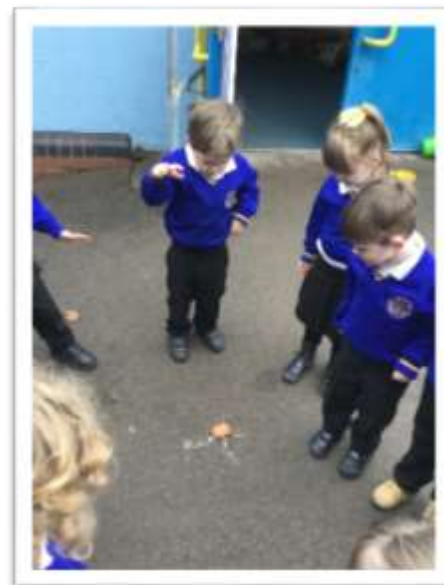
Reception would really appreciate it if you could have a look to see if you have any spare nuts and bolts, metal tap washers, pots and pans, baking trays, different size spoons or scoops. Any donations would be very much appreciated.

This week in Nursery:

We have been talking about the lifecycle of a butterfly and we attached a paper clip to the arrow on our picture and moved the arrow around the cycle with a magnet underneath the paper. The children were excited that the magnet worked through the paper. We talked about magnetism and then explored the room looking for metal objects to stick to our magnets.

In the second experiment, we dropped eggs on different materials to see if the egg would break or not. The children had to predict what the egg would do as it fell on different surfaces. We had lots of fun with this experiment, but it did get messy at times!

We found out that all the hard surfaces make the egg smash, but the feathers and the straw were a lot softer, so the egg was safe.



This week in Reception

Our Reception children make us proud every week with their learning!  
Take a look at this week's activities...



