



**Grangefield School**  
*Flying high. Spreading our wings.*

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Karen Lewis

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Dear Parents

### **Curriculum Termly Newsletter**

Next term's topic is 'Creature Comforts' where we will be finding out about a variety of animals. We'll be learning about caring for pets and finding out about animals from hot and cold countries. We'll be finding out how to stay safe around dogs that we don't know and we'll be inviting the children's pets to visit our class for 'Show and Tell'. (Please let us know if you would like your friendly pet to visit so that we can arrange a date and time). We'll finish our topic with a 'Bring your toy pet to school day'. We will continue to build upon the skills and knowledge the children have already developed in the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

The children will be supported to maintain attention for longer periods of time and develop more independence when selecting resources and carrying out tasks. We will encourage the children to persevere at tasks they find tricky and to think of ways they could improve their work after they are finished. We will continue to develop the children's awareness of the need to respect and be sensitive to the needs of others, and we will be helping the children consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others.

### **Communication and Language, Literacy**

The children will be supported to develop skills such as sustained listening, conversing and negotiating. They will be using language to organise, sequence and clarify their ideas. The children will continue to develop their phonic skills at a level appropriate to them. This will include hearing and saying initial, medial and final sounds, linking and naming the letter sounds and their upper and lower case letter shapes and then using this knowledge to read and write simple words or sentences. The children will learn how to use finger spaces between words and when capital letters are appropriate. They will begin to write the key words they have learnt to read. In reading, the children will enjoy hearing poetry, stories and using non-fiction texts to find information. The children will use their phonic knowledge to sound out and blend sounds in unfamiliar words and begin to recognise many key words by sight. Consequently, we aim for the children to become more fluent readers who are able to answer questions about what they have read.

### **Mathematics**

The children will develop their number skills through counting irregular arrangements of objects; estimating; comparing sets of objects and using language such as 'more and fewer'; finding the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them and in practical activities and discussion, begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. They will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes and use mathematical language to describe them. They will also be working on their number recognition to twenty, and beyond, and practice counting in ones, twos, fives and tens.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

The Reception classroom is always a hive of creativity, and this term we will be making a bed for a toy pet, producing animal paintings and collages, and experimenting with new effects and

textures. The children will be learning about the different families of musical instruments and making good use of the outdoor areas when music making themselves.

### **Understanding the World**

Throughout our 'Creature Comforts' topic the children will have the opportunity to utilise a range of programmable resources such as CD players, tablets, digital cameras, tape recorders, Bee-Bots and computers to support their learning, including making and printing a pet passport.

### **Physical Development**

The children will continue to develop and enhance their fine motor skills this term. They will work on developing a secure, accurate pencil grip and their manipulation of small objects. During handwriting sessions we will be working on forming letters correctly. During PE sessions we will be experimenting with different ways of moving and travelling with greater confidence around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment. PE will continue to be on a Monday afternoon and Friday morning.

### **Home Learning**

The children will continue to bring home a levelled reading book and we would encourage you to read with your child as often as possible. Don't forget to write in their reading diary so the children get a sticker for their efforts. Please ensure that your child's word wallet remains in their book bag so that they can be updated. Please continue to promote the sounding out of words that your child is unfamiliar with and keep practising the tricky words. The children are doing a fabulous job with recognising these words and this will be a huge help to them as they progress with their reading and writing throughout the school. Making up your own stories or getting your child to help you change the ending of a familiar story is a fun way of promoting Literacy skills at home. Please practise one more and one less with different numbers and making up your own number problems (such as, 'We bought 5 apples from the shop and now I've eaten one, how many do I have left?') will also help your child to use and apply their number knowledge.

You are invited into class to share your child's learning during the last Wednesday (8<sup>th</sup> Feb) and Thursday (9<sup>th</sup> Feb) of the Term from 9 – 9.30am. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Migliaccio, Mrs Patel  
Mrs Clark and Mrs Smith