

**The Teachers in Year are:** Miss Harrison, Mrs Pericleous, Mrs Williamson and Mrs Hubbard  
**The Teaching Assistants are:** Mrs Walker, Mrs Skelton and Mrs Laz

### Our Topic this Half Term is 'Starry Night' and 'Winter Wonderland'

This half term, our topics are 'Starry Night' and 'Winter Wonderland'. In Starry Night, your child will explore the differences between the world at night time compared with daytime. They will find out about nocturnal animals and how they find food when it is dark. They will find out about people who work at night and the different jobs that people do when we are asleep. They will discuss bedtime routines and the importance of a good night's sleep. They will explore the night sky and find out about the Moon and stars. In Winter Wonderland, your child will explore the seasonal changes that happen during winter. They will find out about the different weather associated with the winter season and explore changes that happens to water as it freezes. They will find out about what happens to plants and animals during cold weather and explore places in the world that are always cold and snowy, including the animals that live there.

**English** This half term we will be reading different stories relating to our topic along with a variety of non-fiction texts to help us learn lots of information about the topics. We will be looking at the key differences between fiction and non-fiction text by directly comparing them and looking at how non-fiction texts are used. In Phonics, Nursery will continue to focus on listening to environmental sounds and hearing initial sounds in words. Reception, will continue to learn new sounds and tricky words in Phonics and use these to write simple words and captions and sentences independently with an emphasis around sentence structure. Children will now be encouraged to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will also be focussing on how a sentence is structured.

#### How you could help your child prepare for the topic...

Look at the night sky and see how many stars you can see each night.  
See how the Moon changes shape each night.  
Go on a short walk after dark or go into the garden. Take a torch to light the way. Discuss how things look different in the dark.  
Go on a winter walk and talk about how the environment has changed since the summer months.  
Put bird food out in the garden or on a window ledge and observe the birds that visit.  
Leave water out in a shallow container overnight on a cold night and see if the water freezes.

#### Maths

Our learning for this half term will be learning to:

- Composition of numbers – your child will learn that numbers are made up of 2 or more smaller numbers e.g. I have 7 sweets. If I give 3 to my friend, and I have 4, there are still 7 altogether.
- Explore 3D shapes
- Capacity
- Time – sequencing different times and events in the day.

#### General Reminders:

**PE:** Our PE days are **Mondays and Fridays**. Children must come to school in their PE kit (**white tshirt, dark navy/black hoodie, shorts joggers or leggings please**)

All earrings must be removed. Any child with earrings will NOT be allowed to take part

**Yoga Bugs:** This takes place every Wednesday. Children will wear their normal school uniform for this. All earrings must be removed. Any child with earrings will NOT be allowed to take part

**Reading:** Your child will be receiving worded reading books with the sounds they have learnt in phonics. Please see the link in 'useful websites' to watch a video that tells you how each sound is pronounced. These will be given out on a Friday and must be returned by the following Wednesday. Please support your child with their reading: it really makes a difference! Aim to hear them read a minimum of three times a week – little and often works best ☺

**Water Bottles:** We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Please send a named water bottle in each day. The bottle must contain water only. We do not allow squash, juice or flavoured water. **Please remind your child NOT to put this in the book bag with their book please.**

#### Useful Websites:

<https://apps.mathlearningcenter.org/number-rack>  
<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>  
[https://littlelearneronline.com/top-10-interactive-maths-games-eyfs/#Interactive\\_Maths\\_Games\\_EYFS](https://littlelearneronline.com/top-10-interactive-maths-games-eyfs/#Interactive_Maths_Games_EYFS)

#### Spring Dates for your Diary:

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 9:10-10:00** – Stay and Bake

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - School breaks up for half term

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February** - INSET

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** - Back to school

#### Any other Information:

Children will be set homework on a Friday – This is to be completed by the following Thursday. ☺