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Foundation Stage Termly Learning Letter Spring 2022

Dear Everyone,

As we begin 2022 we would like to wish you all a happy new year and thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts we received at the end last term. There are lots of things happening over the course of the spring term and we'd like to take the time to share them with you in this letter.

Termly theme...

Last term the children were exploring the big question 'What Makes Me a Me?' and during this half term we are going to explore the big question... 'Look UP, Look Down - What is all around?'. By keeping our themes open and loose we can follow the children's interest and discover lots of things about the world around us. The children will be exploring the woods during winter and become immersed in all things 'ice' when we delve into the life of the Great Ice Explorer, Ernest Shackleton. The children will be filled with wonder and curiosity when they find the ship wreck of 'Endurance' in our class curiosity cube. We will update you via Tapestry or Google Classroom with some of the key learning and experiences that are taking place.

Supporting your child at home

As we enter the second term of your child's foundation year we thought we'd outline some of the things that the children have been learning within Maths and Literacy so that you can reinforce these skills at home. The more you can do to help the more quickly your child will progress. Many of these things can be achieved whilst you are out and about. Perhaps you could ask your child to count different amounts of everyday objects such as oranges or knives and forks, can they help you to write a shopping list or even by playing eye spy in the car. The list below are not your child's personal targets, it is a general overview of what we will be teaching. We will challenge and support your child where necessary!

Maths	Literacy
Counting from 0-20 both forwards and backwards. Recognising numbers out of context.	Recognising the alphabet sounds a-z saying 'a' as in 'alligator' and 'b' as in 'ball' . Recognising special friends such as sh, ch, th and ng etc.
Knowing the number that is one and one less than a given number to 20.	Recognising the alphabet names such as ABC A as in 'Amy' and 'B' as in Because. We say the sound is 'a' and the name is 'A'.
Understanding the composition of numbers from 0-5 (or 10). i.e. $2+2+1=$ is the same as $1+1+1+1=$ (Using objects to support).	Blending sounds such as p-i-n and reading pin. Writing a simple phonetic sentence i.e. 'The cat is sat on the mat'.
2d shape - square, rectangle, circle, triangle and their properties. Making ABAB patterns (repeated patterns) with these shapes.	Learning by heart the sight words that cannot be decoded such as the, to, no and so on.
Knowing the number bonds (the different combinations of numbers that make 5 and 10) off by heart.	Forming the letters in their names correctly. Beginning to form the rest of the alphabet correctly.
Describe a sequence of events using the language; first, after that, next.	Reading short sentences independently.
Identify groups of objects that have fewer, more than or equal amounts.	Learning how to write lists, letters, postcards and labels.
Odd and even numbers- recognising if a number is odd or even and can show or explain why.	Understanding what they have read by answering simple questions about the text (both fiction and non-fiction).

Home Learning

In the Foundation Stage, we expect the children to be reading their school books at home. We recommend that your child reads to you three times a week. During the first read your child will need to focus on reading with accuracy (blending the sounds), the second read we like them to practice reading with fluency and with more expression; the third time your child reads to you we would like you to focus on their

comprehension, ask your child questions about the story, why did they think a particular event happened? It is very important that ten to fifteen minutes are set aside for you and your child to share a reading book and practice their key words together. Please write a brief comment in the home/school book to indicate to us how well your child read the book. Please ensure your child has their books in their bags everyday as we often select different children to read with throughout the week. Could we remind you all to not put your child's water bottle in their book bag as they tend to leak and we have had a lot of books damaged because of this.

Within the next week or so we will be sending home a copy of 'Super Mario's Super Words' book with your child. Your child will start on level one (the first page in the book) and we would like your child to read the Luigi green decodable words such as 'sat' and 'pin' and the two Mario red words (non decodable) such as 'the' and 'to'. Once your child is confident with reading these words we'd like you to help your child to spell the words. Every Friday your child will be asked to read and write these words independently and if they are able to do this accurately will then move onto the next level (the next page) the following week. Please do not encourage your child to rush ahead as we will only be assessing one level per week. If you wish to extend your child further, ask them to write a sentence that includes the words that they have learnt. If your child is in our SET 2 RWI phonics group they will receive 'Super Mario's Super Words' Book Two'. The words in the book contain the sounds from SET 2 Read Write Inc.

To summarise the home learning expectation, we'd like you to listen to your child read for 10-15 minutes at least three times a week and to practice their 4 spellings for 10-15 minutes at least twice a week.

Parent Workshops

This term we will be holding after school parent workshops to give you more information on how you can practically support your child at home. You will be invited to attend a workshop that specifically targets your child's level. The workshops will focus on both reading, writing and phonics and will take place on Tuesday 18th January, you will be invited to attend a specific session with others so that you can gain a clear understanding of your child's next steps. Due to the current COVID situation we will be delivering the workshop virtually. We will send a Google Meet invitation to your child's school account by Monday 17th January.

Spare clothes

If your child has a toileting accident in school and we have had to change them, please ensure the clothes we have provided are washed and returned as soon as possible. We are running extremely low on girls and boys pants and socks as well as tracksuit bottoms, trousers and skirts. We have to use our team budget to replenish the loss of these items and it is expensive. We are unable to sustain the amount of money spent on spare clothes so please return ASAP. If you have any spare uniform or pants/ socks we would gratefully accept these donations.

COVID-19

Thank you for all your support in adapting to the new protocols and routines brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we learn to live with the new wave of the virus, we continue to encourage the children to demonstrate good hand and respiratory hygiene at school, through regular hand washing and reinforcement of the 'catch-it, bin-it, kill-it!' rule. The classrooms continue to be ventilated to ensure a consistent air flow. If your child is affected by COVID and needs to isolate then learning will be provided on Google Classroom. We do not expect this to be completed if your child is feeling unwell. If your child is absent from school due to any other illness they will not be expected to attend online learning. The online learning is ONLY provided for the children who are isolating due to COVID. We understand that other ailments and illnesses are still around but please only send your child to school if they are fit and well. In the autumn term we had numerous situations where children were sent to school unwell. This resulted in both children and staff missing education. ***Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell as it impacts the whole school community.***

Parent Helpers

At the beginning of term we had offers from a few parents/grandparents who were keen to come and listen to the children read in class. If you have completed the free DBS check through school and would still like to help, please let us know.

Google Classroom

Please ensure that you have signed up to your child's Google Classroom. This method of communication is extremely important, particularly for accessing home learning if your child is having to isolate.

Setting up your child's school email account

1. Google 'gmail' and navigate to this page

2. Click on 'create account' and add your child's email address and password

Log in using U/N: [jbloggs @compton.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:jbloggs@compton.plymouth.sch.uk) (your child's username will be their first initial and surname followed by @compton.plymouth.sch.uk. Occasionally there will be another child in school with the same username and in this instance your child's username will have number 2 next to their username, for example jbloggs2@compton.plymouth.sch.uk.)

Default Password: **qwert123** (please **DO NOT** change this password the children will need it in Y1)

3. Once in your child's account click on the 9 dots and navigate to the classroom Foundation 2021/2022

4. Join the classroom using the code **cv7xy2x**

You should now be logged into the Google classroom. You can access the classroom from your child's email account automatically in the future.

Parents Evening

This term will see the parents' evenings take place with your child's class teacher, and you will be notified when the appointment slots are ready to sign up - more details will follow over the coming weeks.

Important Dates to Note...

Event	Date	Parents Required?
Winter Walk to Hollycroft Woods	Thursday 13 th January	Yes
Parent Workshops	Tuesday 18 th January	Yes
Parents Evening	TBC	Yes
Eye Tests	February 8 th and 16 th	No

That's the round up for the spring term. We hope this newsletter has been informative, please let us know if you have any questions or can help in any way. Thank you for your continued support, we very much value the input you give to us and look forward to working with you all as we begin 2022!

Best Wishes,

Jo Stapleton and Jenna Stein

On behalf of the Early Years Team