

## Asfordby Hill Primary School

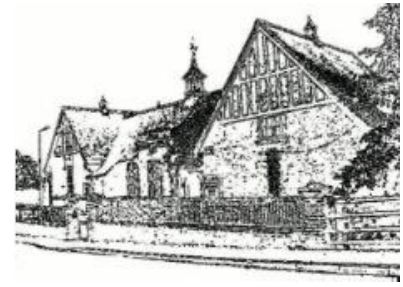
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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Mrs Jenny Smith

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Easter with lots of rest, family-time and, of course, chocolate! Miss Houlton, Mrs Griffin and I are really proud of how well all of the children have returned to school, eager and ready to learn.

This term we have begun our summer topic 'Outside our Window'. We have started with the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, exploring the life cycle of a butterfly, whilst also discussing healthy and unhealthy foods. Over the six-week term the children will become minibeasts hunters, exploring and following their own lines of enquiry and developing their curiosity. We look forward to spending more time in our outdoor area to explore the world around us, in every area of the EYFS Curriculum:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Children will continue to have directed maths, writing and phonic sessions daily, however these will sometimes be in smaller targeted groups. When not working with an adult, children will have access to independent activities and can 'choose their learning'. Areas of the classroom are set up to allow children to pursue their own interests, whilst continuing to embed new concepts and skills that have been directly taught. Star activities are also set at the beginning of the week, to encourage children to apply the learning taught in the directed teaching sessions. When children complete these, they are able to move their name up on our 'Reach for the Stars' chart.

In maths we will continue to embed a secure understanding of number, with a particular focus on the numbers 10-20. We are exploring their composition and developing our reasoning skills. We like to use the phrase 'What do you notice?' rather than 'how many?' when talking about numbers. This allows the children to spot patterns, make links and naturally give reasons for their thinking. Whilst meeting these numbers we will continually revisit mathematical vocabulary such as more/less and add/subtract and parts/wholes.

In our literacy we will continue to review our phase 3 phonemes (sounds), alongside our phase 4 adjacent consonants e.g tent, toast and champ, to allow the children to read and write more words. We will also look at polysyllabic words such as **shampoo**, **tonight** and **speeding**. For these words we encourage the children



Healthy School

to chop them in half, read and blend each half and then squash it back together to form the word. All of the phase 3 flashcards (purple), alongside all of the Phase 3 tricky word logs, have been sent home. Children have also received the Phase 4 tricky words to practise as well. If children are not secure with these sounds and tricky words, it will hold them back from progressing on to higher levelled books. Please continue to practise these at home, short sharp bursts daily is all that is needed! Thank you.

#### Reading at home:

We want your child to continue to develop a love of reading and enjoyment of books. Your child will hear stories, share books and read regularly throughout the school week. In addition to this the children will be participating in class reading sessions where we will share, read and investigate books as a group. Reading books can be swapped at any time during the week, as long as your child has had a go at reading their book twice. The first time they may need to decode every word and read it at a slower pace and then the second they will hopefully be more fluent. For e.g they may not need to sound out the character's name every time they see it. This also allows your child to fully understand the book before moving on to a new one. Remember your child's reading books will only be swapped if your child's book bag has been placed in 'Trevor the Trolley'. They have chance to do this, whilst you are present, during our morning line up on the playground.

#### Tapestry:

Please continue to use Tapestry to find out what we are up to and to share any news or achievements. As mentioned at the Phonics/Spelling workshop, we no longer have our Bug Club license. Please see the memos on Tapestry for some links and games that your child can use to support their learning at home.

#### Other information:

PE will continue to be taught on Fridays, with children coming to school in their PE kits. PE kit should consist of a red jumper, navy-blue/white t-shirt, dark, plain bottoms and suitable trainers. Kit with the school logo is available to purchase through Parent Pay if you wish to. Please make sure that footwear is supportive and not too flat. Converse-style trainers are not suitable for PE as they increase the risk of injury due to the lack of support given. Our focus for PE this term is ball skills and team work games. Most of our sessions will be outside so please ensure that the children are dressed for the weather.

Please ensure that all of your children's belongings are clearly labelled with their name. All children wear the same red jumpers and PE hoodies and it gets very tricky when children have taken their jumpers off to distinguish whose is whose.

#### Refreshments:

If you wish your child to have milk every day, please remember to order online. Miss Webb is able to supply further details. Milk is free for under 5s, but you must be signed up. As soon as your child turns 5, their milk will stop being delivered unless you re-register and pay. We are having a lot of children request milk on a daily basis who aren't on the list.

Named labelled bottles containing water are useful. We ask for water as juice, when left, can attract unwanted visitors. Fruit or vegetables are part of our daily routine and are free of charge.

Finally, as mentioned on Tapestry, we are looking forward to our trip to Twycross Zoo before the end of this half term. We will keep you updated and send a letter out as soon as everything has been finalised.

We are looking forward to a great term ahead. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have through Tapestry, or arrange a meeting and I will try and respond to you ASAP.

Miss Harby