



Elder



Mulberry



Welcome Back

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful time over Christmas. Thank you for all the kind messages and gifts you shared with us. We wish you all happiness and health in 2024.



Learning this term

The texts we have chosen for this term incorporate the themes of Winter, Lunar New Year and Space. You can see all the key texts on the Term 3 Curriculum Map along with details of the key learning we will be covering across the term. Our curriculum maps also include ideas on how to support and extend learning at home.

Phonics

Early this term, we will introduce the remaining new graphemes to be taught in Reception. We will also teach new common exception words. We will then focus on applying our new learning within our reading and writing. We will continue to send home the weekly 'Learning to Read with Phonics' sheets and use Evidence Me to keep you informed of new learning.

Reading at home

While children are learning to read, they need lots and lots of practice. It makes a real difference when children regularly read to their grown ups at home as this accelerates progress. Please try to listen to your child read every day or at least 3 times a week. They do not have to read the whole book every time and might focus on reading just a couple of pages but re-reading with expression and rhythm. Please continue to share quality story books with your child.



Writing

We are encouraging children to start writing simple sentences by applying their knowledge of phonics and common exception words. We are talking about leaving finger spaces between words. Throughout the term we will be improving lower case letter formation, introducing capital letters and establishing that a full stop finishes a sentence. A tool we use for structuring simple sentences is a picture prompt system called Colourful Semantics. Resources to support writing can be found on our Term 3 webpage.

Equipment for School

Your child should continue to bring their book bag to school every day. Inside the book bag should be: the yellow reading record; a decodable reading book; a sharing book and their common exception word bag. Water bottles must also be brought to school every day. Please do not carry water bottles in book bags as this can cause damage to reading books. Your child should also have a P.E. kit that stays in school. All items must be clearly named - including the bags themselves.



Forest School

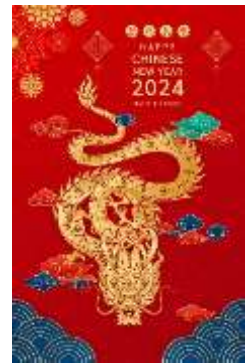
Weekly forest school sessions will take place for Reception children in Term 4 and Term 6 - so starting when we come back after February Half Term. For these, children will need their own warm clothes, waterproofs and wellies.

Zips, Buttons and Getting Changed

The cold winter months provide great opportunities for children to practise getting their coats, jumpers, boots etc on and off on their own. We will be encouraging independence with this.

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year falls on Saturday 10th February this year. As part of our learning about this colourful festival, we will spend a week learning about customs before celebrating on Friday 9th February. No uniform is required on this day and children are invited to come to school wearing something red.



Key Dates

Wednesday 3rd January: First day back to school
Monday 5th February: EYFS Stay and Play 3:05-3:30
Tuesday 6th February: Parents evening 3:30-6:00
Thursday 8th February: Parents evening 3:30-6:00
Friday 9th February: Wear something red for Chinese New Year and the Last Day of Term

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Upham, Miss Ireland, Mrs Gearing, Mrs Seymour, Mrs Bryant, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Dando, Miss Baxter and Mrs Wickens