



Ash class newsletter

Spring 2017 first half term

Mrs Hunt

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to you all. We warmly welcome Taylor to our unit and hope to be greeting more new faces over the coming term.

Our topic for the first half of this term is

Long, long ago.



The children will be encouraged to compare changes over time and we will base our learning around castles. We will start with the story song "There was a Princess long ago," and lead on to discovering facts about castles using books and technology. We will of course only be basing our learning around the topic and there will continue to be daily opportunities for children to explore, consolidate and extend their interests and skills across the whole EYFS curriculum.

For the last two weeks of this half term, we will be exploring the **Chinese New Year** and hope to share some of our work with you on **Thursday 9th February** from **2.45pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us.



On **Thursday 26th January**, we will be holding another **Story and Rhyme time** in class from **2.45-3.15pm**. Any parents or carers with pre-school children are invited to join us for this informal session. It would be lovely to see some new faces, so please spread the word!

Miss Hansford and I have enjoyed spending some time sharing individual **Learning Journeys** with each of the children in turn. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to talk about the progress they have made and to reminisce over activities we have previously undertaken. Please do try to take a moment to share the Learning Journeys alongside your child at home - their comments can be fascinating! We are hoping to start adding more items chosen by the children this term - which will complement our new noticeboard in class displaying things that 'we are proud of.' Please feel free to add to the Learning Journeys from home too.

Over the holidays, **Tapestry** Learning Journals were converted to a new, updated version. I have attached an information sheet which outlines a few changes on how to access it from home. Please let me know if you have any problems with the new version or if you need a reminder of your password! Thank you.

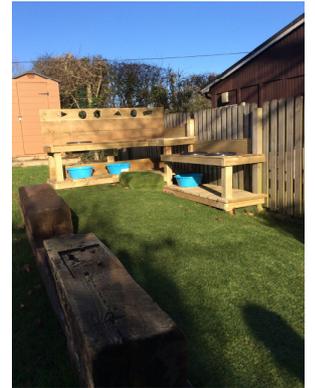




Following up from a course I recently attended, I would really appreciate having access to your child's **'Red Book'** and **2 year progress check** please. It will enable me to get an even fuller view of your child's progress and judge how best to support them. If you could pop them into school one day, then I will return them that afternoon. Many thanks.

Thank you to those of you who completed our **questionnaires** last term; your views and ideas are very much appreciated as we continue to develop our Foundation Stage Unit. If anyone else would like to fill one out, please do ask for a copy - we have spares!!!

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed our mud kitchen appearing just inside the meadow. We will be developing this further over the next few weeks, with the aim of opening it up for the children to use around half term. We are also excited by the new 'pod' and seating in our top playground - kindly funded by our PTFA.



As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Hansford. We look forward to another busy term with you and your children,

Yours sincerely,

Sally Hunt