

Early Years Spring 2

Julia Donaldson



We are now half way through the school year. Hasn't it gone quickly?

This curriculum newsletter will share some of the things we plan to get up to within Early Years in Spring 2.

Our main topic this half term will be the books of Julia Donaldson. Children love these books so we hope to inspire their passion for reading and fire up their imaginations. It is also Book Week and we will be finding out about the celebrations of Chinese New Year and Easter during this busy half term.

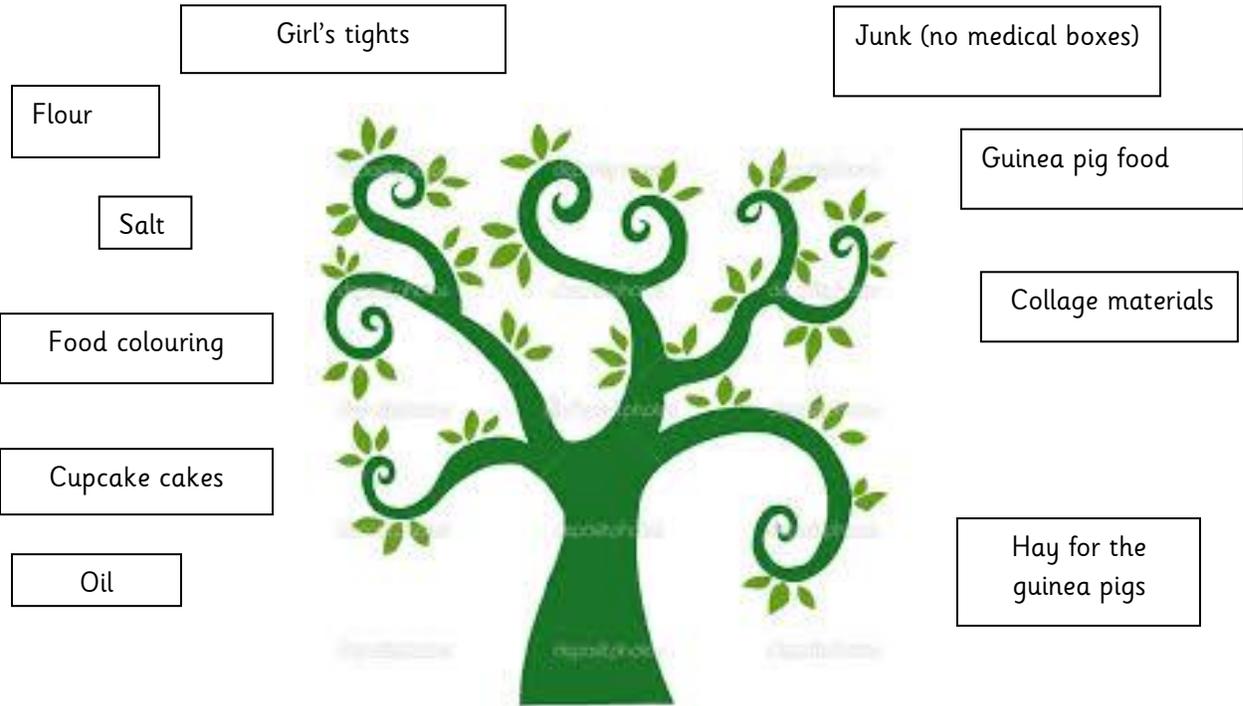
Reception children need a **named** PE kit in school on Monday and Wednesday. Please encourage your child to be independent in getting changed.

If you can join us on any of our trips, your support is much appreciated as we could not go without you.

Dates for your diary:

- 1st March-World Book Day-Dress up as a book character.
- 2nd March-Reception Library visits (Class 2-am/Class 1 pm) (Parent helpers needed)
- 6th March-Chris Bostock the story teller visits Reception
- 6th March-Nursery 1 visit the library (Parent helpers needed)
- 9th March-Nursery 2 visit the library (Parent helpers needed)
- w/c 5th March-Reception balance bike workshops begin
- w/c 12th March-Science Week/Sharing Week
- 13th March-Parents' Evening for Reception and Nursery 1
- 14th March-Parents' Evening for all of Early Years
- 15th March-Parents Evening for Nursery 2
- 20th March-30 Reception children to Multi-skills Festival
- 29th March-Break up for Easter
- 16th April-Summer term begin

Our Wish Tree



Any donations of the above items to Early Years would be greatly appreciated.

Please check the website for copies of letters and further dates for your diary

www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

We love to tweet what we have been up to.

Follow us @archibaldfirst on Twitter.

Tweet us to share what you have been up to as well!



Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We love to share achievements in Early Years. Nothing starts a morning better than a WOW star or a Little Star certificate. We will use the lessons of Julia Donaldson books to discuss themes such as bravery, kindness and friendship. We continue to support the children in their play to work together, to listen to each other and to resolve conflicts. We love team points and being on the rainbow in Nursery. We will be revisiting our friendship grids and looking at how our friendships have changed and developed.

Prime Area: Communication and Language Development

We will continue to spend time encouraging the children to speak in both small and larger groups talking about their activities at home and school. A key skill we will work on is turn-taking in group situations and conversations. We will develop our speech through our review sessions asking the children what they did in Plan, Do, Review.

We will focus on developing language through our role play areas, giving children the opportunity to use the story language they have heard, influenced by the texts they have read.

We will use class and group times to develop conversation skills including comprehension skills. We will encourage the children to think about the stories they have heard and making predictions and comments about the text.

Prime Area: Physical Development

Physical Development covers both fine and gross motor skills as well as children's health and self-care. This half term, we will be continuing to develop children's fine motor skills through activities including using tweezers, peg boards, threading, cutting, writing, finger gym and dough disco. Reception will continue to practice forming our letters correctly. The children will be taking part in gymnastic activities in P.E. travelling under, over, through and developing our balancing and jumping skills.

The children are becoming more independent with their toileting needs. Please remember to send back any borrowed clothes.



Specific Area: Expressive Art and Design

Children will have daily opportunities to paint and to make their own models (any recycling will be greatly appreciated but no medical containers/boxes, please). We will be asking the children to explain their models and add details to their paintings.

They will have access to role play areas to help develop their imagination and build on their speaking and confidence. This half term our role play areas will be inspired by the settings of Julia Donaldson's books!

The children will have singing sessions and continue to access musical instruments as well as exploring different materials and media to make pictures inspired by the illustrators of Julia Donaldson books.

Specific Area: Mathematics

We will continue to teach mathematics through a range of practical and fun activities both indoors and outdoors including counting, number rhymes, number hunts and reading and recognising numbers.

Reception will building on their work on addition and subtraction and begin to look at doubling, halving and sharing. We will begin to talk about money and time, ordering our day and talking about times on a clock. We will look at measuring height as well as ordinal numbers through our work on Chinese New Year.

We will have a new measuring maths challenge this half term. Will you be a measuring marvel?

Specific Area: Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We are learning to use the computers and the mouse, as well as being super using the iPads. This term, Reception will begin to practice using a keyboard to type labels and captions and taking a walk around to explore technology in school.

We will be investigating the world around us as Spring arrives.

We will be looking at the celebrations of Chinese New Year and Easter and the customs and traditions that they share.

We will continue with our weekly Spanish lessons.

Specific Area: Literacy

We are so proud of the super readers we have in Reception! Please read with your child as often as possible, talking about the books. Remember to sign the reading diary, letting us know how your child got on. We have two parent readers who read with children so please make sure your child's book is in their bag every day.

Reception children will continue their daily phonics sessions. Please continue to work with your child using their orange sound books as this is a vital part of home school learning to help support your child's learning at home. Don't forget to practise the key words at the back of the book too.

We will begin to now apply our phonics in our writing, writing our key words correctly and making brave attempts at more complex words. Inspired by Julia Donaldson and Chris Bostock we will write stories.

Nursery will continue to work on a range of early reading and writing activities, including mark making, letter hunts and writing in shaving foam. Why not practise writing your name at home?