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Privet Drive, Gambol and Japes and Spinner's End Newsletter Summer 2018

Dear Families,

We hope you had a lovely Easter break and would like to welcome you back to the start of the Summer Term. This letter will provide you with a few updates about what is happening in Reception in the coming weeks.

'Be Free' :

Our topic for this term is called Be Free and will tie in with celebrations of Nelson Mandela's 100th Birthday. We will be focussing our learning around South Africa; exploring art, food, animals and customs, as well as comparing life in England to life in South Africa. If you have visited South Africa or have any links there, please let us know. A topic jigsaw will be sent home to give you further information about it.



Tapestry:

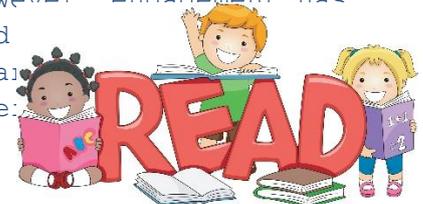
A very big thank you to all the families who have accessed Tapestry so far. Whilst lots of families are logging in and posting comments, we are hopeful that even more will share things their children are doing at home. Photos and videos from home are an extremely valuable contribution to our assessments. If you have any questions, please ask us and we will help in any way we can.



Regular Readers and Flashcards:

We sent home the fourth and final set of flashcards for Reception before the Easter holidays. We cannot stress enough how just a few minutes practise each night really makes a difference to your child's reading. If you have misplaced or not received these, please speak to your child's class teacher and we can provide another set.

Regular Reader certificates continue to be issued every Monday and children are working towards their next reward. However, engagement has dropped off a little since Christmas. Children need four days out of seven and have this recorded to earn their certificate. They can read or listen to a story, or practise the all counts towards their certificate.



Home Learning Grids and Pre-learning:

A very big well done to all children who completed home learning activities during the Spring Term. We loved sharing these with the

class and beyond! A new Home Learning Grid for the Summer Term will be sent to you with lots of ideas for home learning activities, which can then also be shared on Tapestry. Please feel free to adapt these activities as you wish. Pre-learning tasks are shared most Fridays, via Dojo. Whilst these are optional and open-ended activities, it helps the children to be prepared for the introduction of new topics or learning skills.

Class Dojo:

We hope you are finding Class Dojo a useful tool, particularly for communicating with your child's class teacher, as well as seeing what is happening in Reception. We try to aim to respond to any messages as soon as possible, however, **we cannot guarantee to respond during teaching hours**, so if there is a message about illness or collection arrangements, please telephone the main office, rather than messaging us, to ensure we do not miss anything.

P.E

P.E. continues to be on a Monday morning and we will be doing some outdoor P.E lessons in preparation for Sports Day. Please ensure your child has a P.E. kit and trainers in school, as well as having their earrings removed. Please also ensure long hair is tied up, as we have had several reports of head lice.



Home Visits

Miss Hopkinson will be carrying out visits for the new Reception children during this half term. Whilst we try our best to carry out as many of these as possible after school, with so many to do, it is not always possible. Cover will be provided by the Reception team and we will aim to keep any changes to routine minimal for the children.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. We are very much looking forward to our final term with Reception and, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Best wishes

Miss Hopkinson, Miss Wren, Miss McQueen and the Reception Team