



St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent
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January 2022 - Reception Class – Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back !

We will be starting this term by looking at the story *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas (pictured), a story that focuses on the different emotions that we experience and we will be exploring how to identify these emotions and express them. We hope to spend a couple of weeks basing our learning around this mini-topic.

One of our visitors last term has been postponed to this term and so we will be welcoming Erin from the National Trust for Jersey in a couple of weeks to carry out a 'Superworm' workshop with the children. This workshop is focused around the importance of worms for soil health and biodiversity. We hope to create a classroom wormery and Erin will be bringing some worms with her so that we can find out more about them.

After that, we will move on to looking at different traditional Fairy Tales. This topic will begin with the children taking part in a 'Fairy Tale Hunt', searching for pictures of characters and objects from Fairy Tales and then finding out which tales we will be looking at during the Spring Term.

The following link outlines just why Fairy Tales are so important in the development of young children:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/family-time/benefits-of-reading-fairy-tales/>

The telling of Fairy Tales helps children understand the basics of a story – setting, characters and plot (rising action, climax and resolution) as well as the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Once a child understands story structure, they will then be able to make predictions and inferences with other stories they read.

Our Mission:

'To develop responsible, independent individuals who have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.





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The children will be developing their Literacy and Numeracy skills through Fairy Tales as well as undertaking a range of Art and Craft activities, for example, when we look at 'The Gingerbread Man,' the children will be following visual instructions to make gingerbread men, turning our role-play Area into a Gingerbread Man's Cottage to re-enact the story, using writing frames to record the refrain from the story, creating collage gingerbread men and finding numbered gingerbread men pictures outside and ordering them correctly.

Over the Spring Term, we will be looking at 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' amongst others and we will conclude the topic with a 'Fairy Tale Quiz'. We also hope to visit a castle and find out about the features of a castle, linking this visit to our topic – more details about this trip will follow.

Our Read, Write, Inc. sessions will continue on a daily basis. The children will continue learning Set 1 or Set 2 Speed Sounds and will be reading and developing their handwriting skills every day. If your child has a RWI folder, please could they bring it into school each day – thank you for your support with this.

Please click on the following link if you wish to find out more about how to support your child with their phonic development:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

During our Maths sessions, the children will continue to work on identifying numerals up to twenty, and exploring different ways of making a given number (number bonds, eg: number bonds to five are 4 and 1, 3 and 2, 5 and 0). Children will be introduced to early addition and subtraction number stories, using objects for support where necessary ("*There were four birds in a tree but three flew away. How many are left ?*") We will also be identifying and creating our own patterns as well as looking at line symmetry in simple images and simple shapes. Towards the end of the half term, we will focus on 3D shapes and the children will be learning to name cubes, spheres, cuboids, cones, pyramids and cylinders as well as describe the properties of such shapes (such as number of faces and corners). The children will also explore length, height and weight, learning how to compare each of these, using direct comparison.

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The following link gives an outline of the six key areas crucial to early Mathematics and our sessions in school will be based around these areas -

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/in-the-classroom/early-years/>

Our 'Library' day will continue to be every Thursday – please could you ensure that your child has their library folder on this day. The children work with a volunteer helper, Mrs Renault (Pauline) and are encouraged to share their book within a small group, talking about the story and the characters, to the group. This is a great opportunity for the children to develop their Literacy skills within a small familiar group and all the children are always keen to go to the library. Keep an eye out for some Maths activities in the folders as I hope to introduce a weekly Maths activity for children to play at home, if they wish to do so.

Our PE days continue every Thursday and Friday, and children may come into school wearing their PE kit on these days. If your child is swimming this term, they may also wear their PE kit on Wednesdays, if you feel that this will be easier for them to manage in terms of getting changed. The swimming sessions commence on Wednesday, 12th January, and those children swimming will need their costumes, a towel and goggles – a swimming hat will be provided.

Just a reminder that your child should have a named water bottle that is carried separately to their lunchbox and their lunchtime drink. Your child will need a water bottle and their mid-morning snack in their green reading folders as these are kept in the classroom (the lunchboxes are not stored in the classroom and the children do not have access to them or their lunchtime drinks until lunchtime).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Banks

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