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Reception Newsletter

Summer 1 2018

Welcome to Summer 1, we hope you enjoyed the Easter Holidays and are well rested. With summer approaching we would like to remind parents to please be aware of the weather and dress children appropriately. This includes ensuring your child does not have too many layers on, caps to keep the sun off your child's face and sun cream if we are lucky enough to have a very sunny day! But please ensure you provide your child with a coat as the weather changes from morning to afternoon. It is important that you ensure children's belongings are clearly labelled to prevent items from getting lost

Staffing:

Mrs Rahman (Assistant Headteacher – EYFS Leader)

RM: Ms Manzi (Class Teacher), Ms Carroll (Nursery Nurse)

RB: Ms Begum (Class Teacher) Ms Sue (Nursery Nurse)

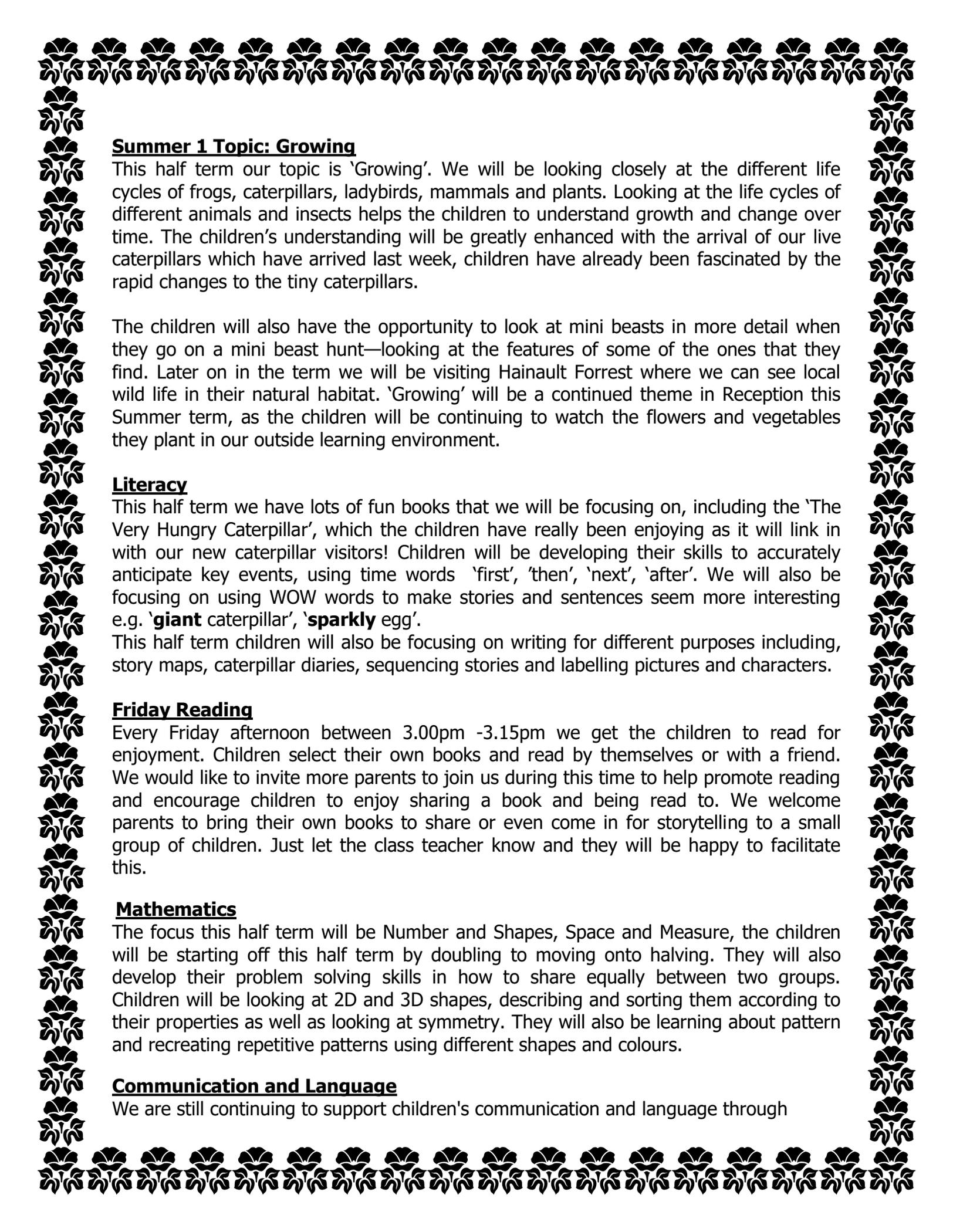
Rahela (Teaching Assistant for both classes)

Maryam, Denise, Salma, Radia and Hees (Learning Support Assistant)

School times: School starts at 9.00am and finishes at **3.20pm** for Reception pupils. It is important that these times are followed as this can affect your child's learning. Please collect your child from reception first, before collecting their older siblings, if any. If parents are running late, children will be sent to the school office.

Collection list: It is important that you have provided the school with up to date names of the adults you wish your child to be collected from school. Any adults not on the list will be refused collection. Children's safety is paramount to us at all times, we appreciate that there may be instances when you need to make alternative arrangements, so you should always inform the school office before the end of the school day.

Spare Clothes: Please bring a set of spare clothes for your child and leave this on their peg in a shiny cloth bag that is provided (This is school property which needs to stay in school). This will allow us to attend to children quickly without the need to call you. This should include spare trousers/skirt, socks, underwear, shoes, t-shirt/jumper, with their name clearly marked on them.

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Summer 1 Topic: Growing

This half term our topic is 'Growing'. We will be looking closely at the different life cycles of frogs, caterpillars, ladybirds, mammals and plants. Looking at the life cycles of different animals and insects helps the children to understand growth and change over time. The children's understanding will be greatly enhanced with the arrival of our live caterpillars which have arrived last week, children have already been fascinated by the rapid changes to the tiny caterpillars.

The children will also have the opportunity to look at mini beasts in more detail when they go on a mini beast hunt—looking at the features of some of the ones that they find. Later on in the term we will be visiting Hainault Forrest where we can see local wild life in their natural habitat. 'Growing' will be a continued theme in Reception this Summer term, as the children will be continuing to watch the flowers and vegetables they plant in our outside learning environment.

Literacy

This half term we have lots of fun books that we will be focusing on, including the 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', which the children have really been enjoying as it will link in with our new caterpillar visitors! Children will be developing their skills to accurately anticipate key events, using time words 'first', 'then', 'next', 'after'. We will also be focusing on using WOW words to make stories and sentences seem more interesting e.g. 'giant caterpillar', 'sparkly egg'.

This half term children will also be focusing on writing for different purposes including, story maps, caterpillar diaries, sequencing stories and labelling pictures and characters.

Friday Reading

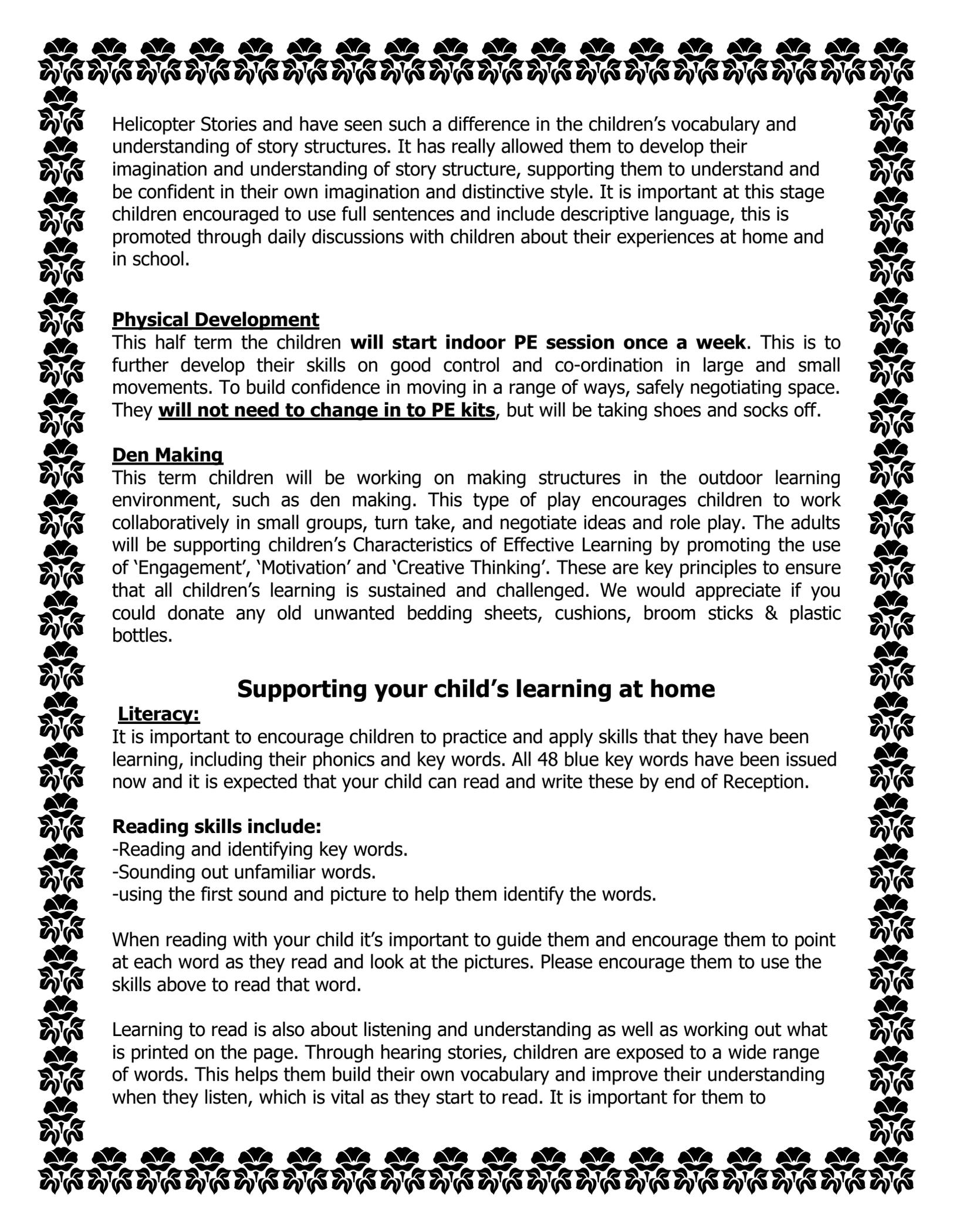
Every Friday afternoon between 3.00pm -3.15pm we get the children to read for enjoyment. Children select their own books and read by themselves or with a friend. We would like to invite more parents to join us during this time to help promote reading and encourage children to enjoy sharing a book and being read to. We welcome parents to bring their own books to share or even come in for storytelling to a small group of children. Just let the class teacher know and they will be happy to facilitate this.

Mathematics

The focus this half term will be Number and Shapes, Space and Measure, the children will be starting off this half term by doubling to moving onto halving. They will also develop their problem solving skills in how to share equally between two groups. Children will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes, describing and sorting them according to their properties as well as looking at symmetry. They will also be learning about pattern and recreating repetitive patterns using different shapes and colours.

Communication and Language

We are still continuing to support children's communication and language through

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Helicopter Stories and have seen such a difference in the children's vocabulary and understanding of story structures. It has really allowed them to develop their imagination and understanding of story structure, supporting them to understand and be confident in their own imagination and distinctive style. It is important at this stage children encouraged to use full sentences and include descriptive language, this is promoted through daily discussions with children about their experiences at home and in school.

Physical Development

This half term the children **will start indoor PE session once a week**. This is to further develop their skills on good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. To build confidence in moving in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They **will not need to change in to PE kits**, but will be taking shoes and socks off.

Den Making

This term children will be working on making structures in the outdoor learning environment, such as den making. This type of play encourages children to work collaboratively in small groups, turn take, and negotiate ideas and role play. The adults will be supporting children's Characteristics of Effective Learning by promoting the use of 'Engagement', 'Motivation' and 'Creative Thinking'. These are key principles to ensure that all children's learning is sustained and challenged. We would appreciate if you could donate any old unwanted bedding sheets, cushions, broom sticks & plastic bottles.

Supporting your child's learning at home

Literacy:

It is important to encourage children to practice and apply skills that they have been learning, including their phonics and key words. All 48 blue key words have been issued now and it is expected that your child can read and write these by end of Reception.

Reading skills include:

- Reading and identifying key words.
- Sounding out unfamiliar words.
- using the first sound and picture to help them identify the words.

When reading with your child it's important to guide them and encourage them to point at each word as they read and look at the pictures. Please encourage them to use the skills above to read that word.

Learning to read is also about listening and understanding as well as working out what is printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It is important for them to

understand how stories work too, through questions:
What happened next/after/before?
How did Feel? Why?
Why do you think...?

Writing skills include:

- Writing key words from memory or identifying the correct key word.
- Using phonic knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words e.g. "c-a-t-p-i-ll-a...caterpillar", "e-g...egg". (When your child is sounding out the words when writing, please do not correct their spelling just encourage them to hear the key sounds.)
- Using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters at the beginning of the sentence.

Learning to write and building up their confidence is important for children in Early Years, it helps them find enjoyment in writing. It is important that you encourage your child to write for different purposes and about something they are interested in e.g. letters, birthday cards, shopping list, labelling their picture, writing a comic, writing a list of their favourite toys/ characters. This is to help children see writing as purposeful and relevant to their concerns and interest.

Maths

With our focus this half term being based on shape, space and measure, it is important to nurture these skills at home too. You could encourage your child to find 2D and 3D shapes in everyday objects, such as a cuboid in a box, a triangle in an envelope flap etc. You can do this when you are out at the park, in shops, or just at home picking out different objects for them to look at. To extend their understanding of the shapes and their properties, it is important to question the uses of their shape e.g. why is a roof not a sphere? (Roll off because it is round)

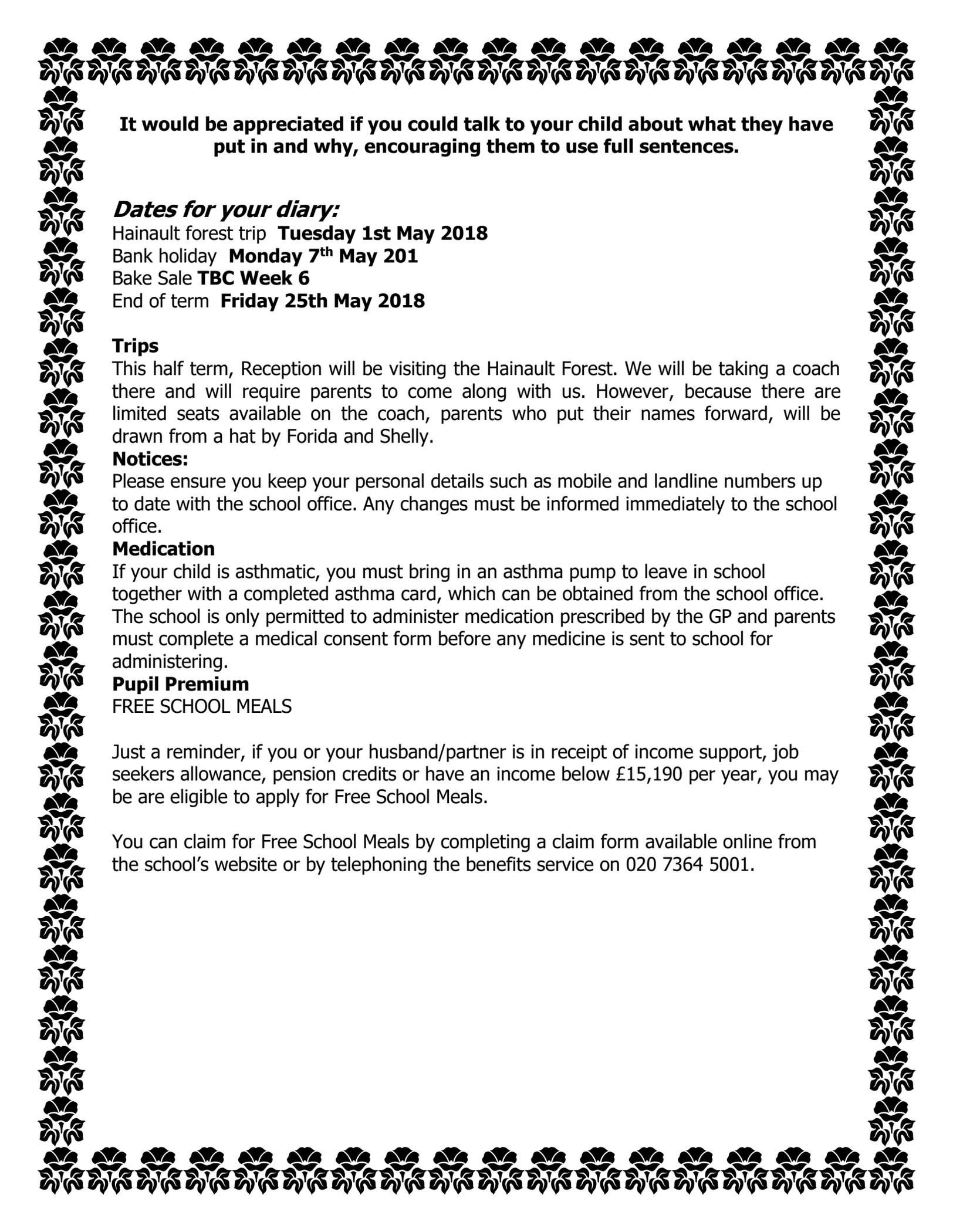
All About Me Box

Thank you to those parents who have supported their child with bringing in personal items. This has really gone down well with the children and they love sharing their belonging to the rest of the class. This really helps to support their personal, social and emotional development and increases their self-confidence.

Please note: Only two children from each class will get to take this home every week, so do not worry if your child hasn't had their turn yet, they will! The box is for your child to put in up to 4 things that are special to them, for them to bring to school and present to the class. The items can include:

- Items that belong to the child when they were a baby
- Photos of them on holiday or doing something exciting
- Favourite toy/teddy/car/book
- Photos of their family
- Old toys that belonged to them

The idea behind this is to encourage children's Communication and Language, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

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It would be appreciated if you could talk to your child about what they have put in and why, encouraging them to use full sentences.

Dates for your diary:

Hainault forest trip **Tuesday 1st May 2018**

Bank holiday **Monday 7th May 201**

Bake Sale **TBC Week 6**

End of term **Friday 25th May 2018**

Trips

This half term, Reception will be visiting the Hainault Forest. We will be taking a coach there and will require parents to come along with us. However, because there are limited seats available on the coach, parents who put their names forward, will be drawn from a hat by Florida and Shelly.

Notices:

Please ensure you keep your personal details such as mobile and landline numbers up to date with the school office. Any changes must be informed immediately to the school office.

Medication

If your child is asthmatic, you must bring in an asthma pump to leave in school together with a completed asthma card, which can be obtained from the school office. The school is only permitted to administer medication prescribed by the GP and parents must complete a medical consent form before any medicine is sent to school for administering.

Pupil Premium

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Just a reminder, if you or your husband/partner is in receipt of income support, job seekers allowance, pension credits or have an income below £15,190 per year, you may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals.

You can claim for Free School Meals by completing a claim form available online from the school's website or by telephoning the benefits service on 020 7364 5001.