

Reception Newsletter

Spring 2 2018

Staffing:

Mrs Rahman (Assistant Headteacher – EYFS Leader)
RM: Miss Manzi (Class Teacher) & Ms Carroll (Nursery Nurse)
RB: Miss Begum (Class Teacher) Ms Sue (Nursery Nurse)
Rahela (Teaching Assistant for both classes)

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.

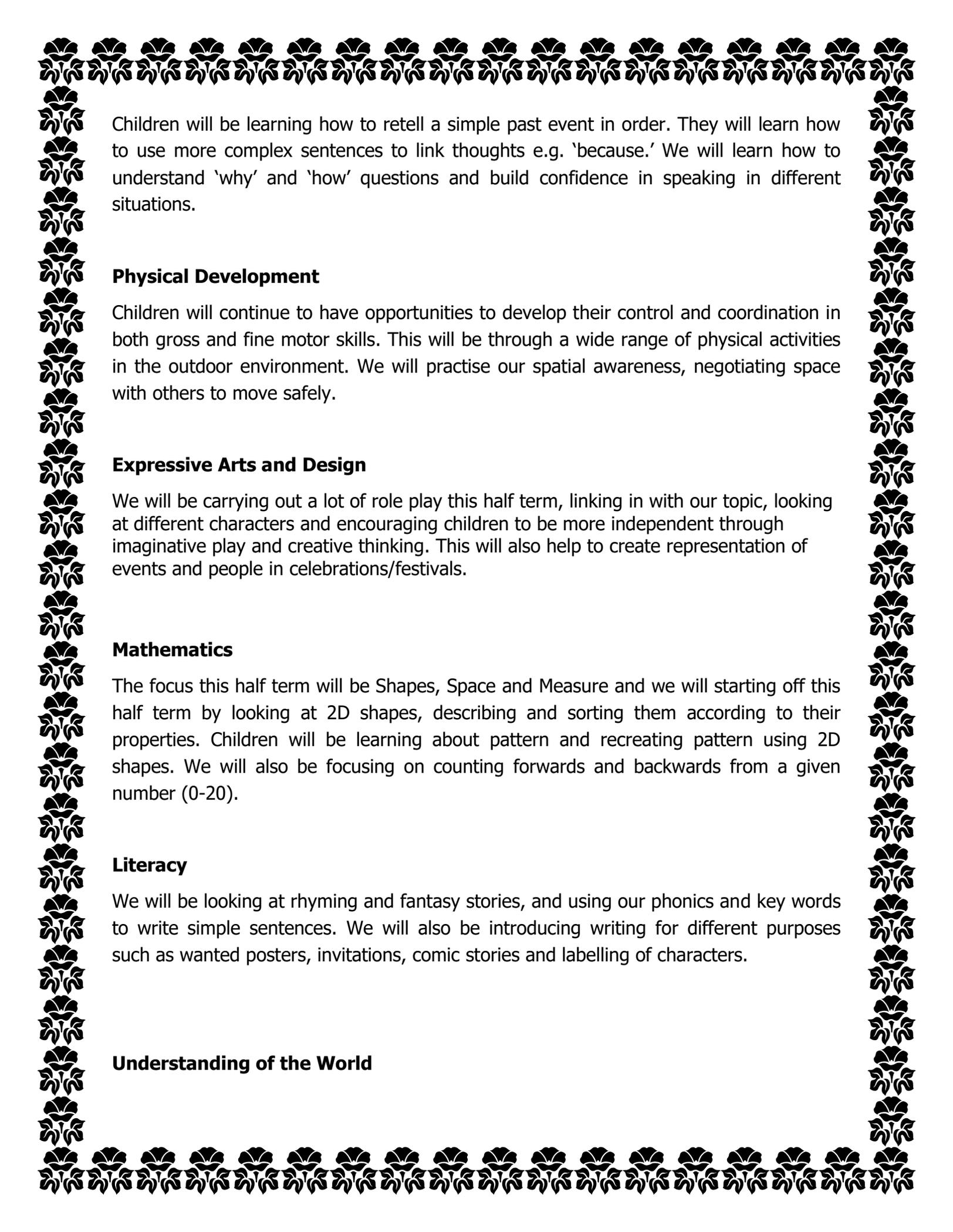
Spare Clothes: Please bring a set of spare clothes for your child and leave this on their peg in a shiny cloth bag that is provided (This is school property which needs to stay in school). This will allow us to attend to children quickly without the need to call you. This should include spare trousers/skirt,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

With the weather becoming a lot colder, please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing, this should include; a warm coat, hat, scarves and gloves, sensible shoes and a school jumper or cardigan.

Spring 2 Topic: Festivals & Celebrations

This half term our topic focus is learning about different festivals and celebrations. This will help the children work towards planning their festival assembly this half term. As part of our topic, we have planned to take the children to visit Harley Grove Gudwara. This will aid their festival assembly, which will be on Holi.

Communication and Language:

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Children will be learning how to retell a simple past event in order. They will learn how to use more complex sentences to link thoughts e.g. 'because.' We will learn how to understand 'why' and 'how' questions and build confidence in speaking in different situations.

Physical Development

Children will continue to have opportunities to develop their control and coordination in both gross and fine motor skills. This will be through a wide range of physical activities in the outdoor environment. We will practise our spatial awareness, negotiating space with others to move safely.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be carrying out a lot of role play this half term, linking in with our topic, looking at different characters and encouraging children to be more independent through imaginative play and creative thinking. This will also help to create representation of events and people in celebrations/festivals.

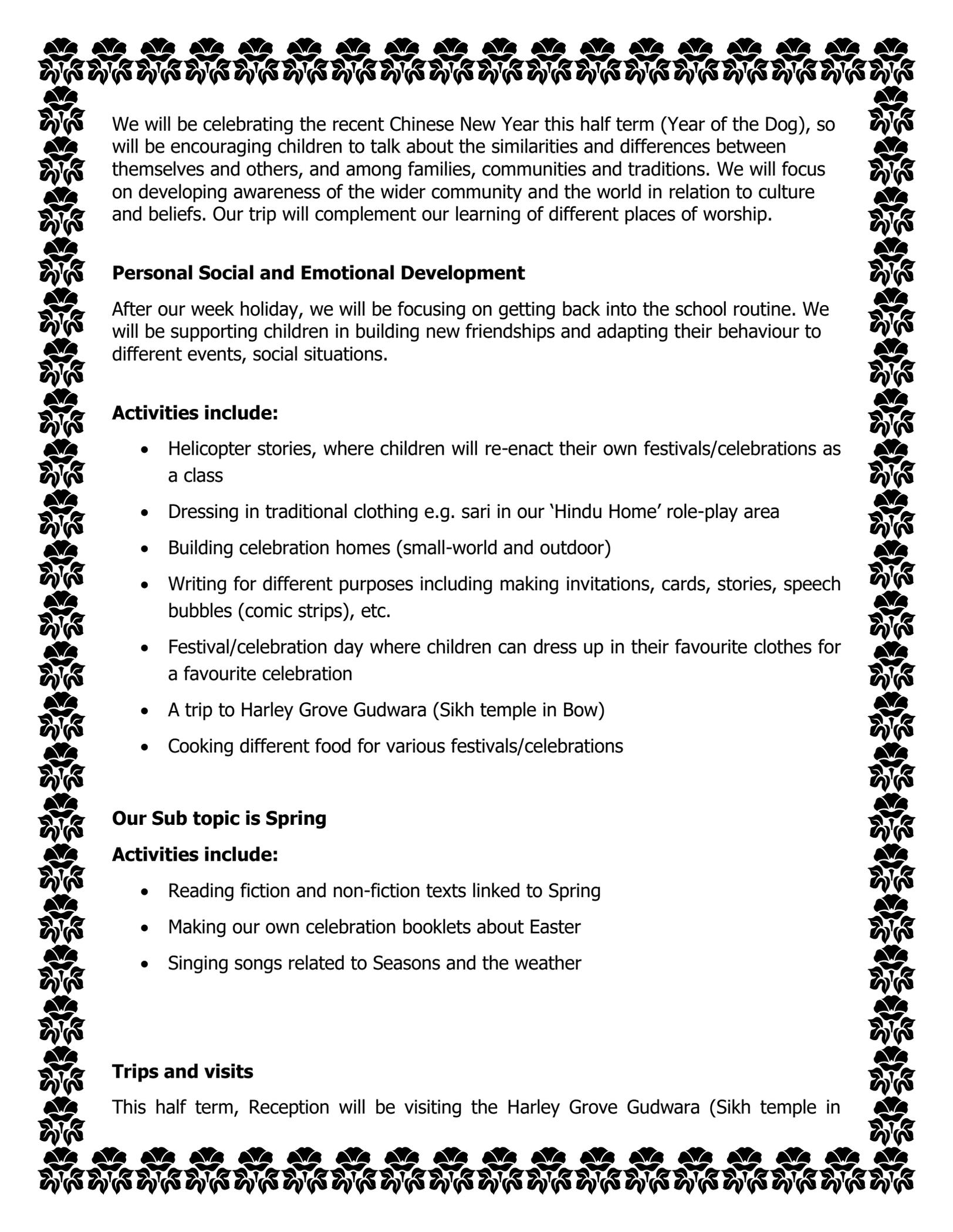
Mathematics

The focus this half term will be Shapes, Space and Measure and we will starting off this half term by looking at 2D shapes, describing and sorting them according to their properties. Children will be learning about pattern and recreating pattern using 2D shapes. We will also be focusing on counting forwards and backwards from a given number (0-20).

Literacy

We will be looking at rhyming and fantasy stories, and using our phonics and key words to write simple sentences. We will also be introducing writing for different purposes such as wanted posters, invitations, comic stories and labelling of characters.

Understanding of the World

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We will be celebrating the recent Chinese New Year this half term (Year of the Dog), so will be encouraging children to talk about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. We will focus on developing awareness of the wider community and the world in relation to culture and beliefs. Our trip will complement our learning of different places of worship.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

After our week holiday, we will be focusing on getting back into the school routine. We will be supporting children in building new friendships and adapting their behaviour to different events, social situations.

Activities include:

- Helicopter stories, where children will re-enact their own festivals/celebrations as a class
- Dressing in traditional clothing e.g. sari in our 'Hindu Home' role-play area
- Building celebration homes (small-world and outdoor)
- Writing for different purposes including making invitations, cards, stories, speech bubbles (comic strips), etc.
- Festival/celebration day where children can dress up in their favourite clothes for a favourite celebration
- A trip to Harley Grove Gudwara (Sikh temple in Bow)
- Cooking different food for various festivals/celebrations

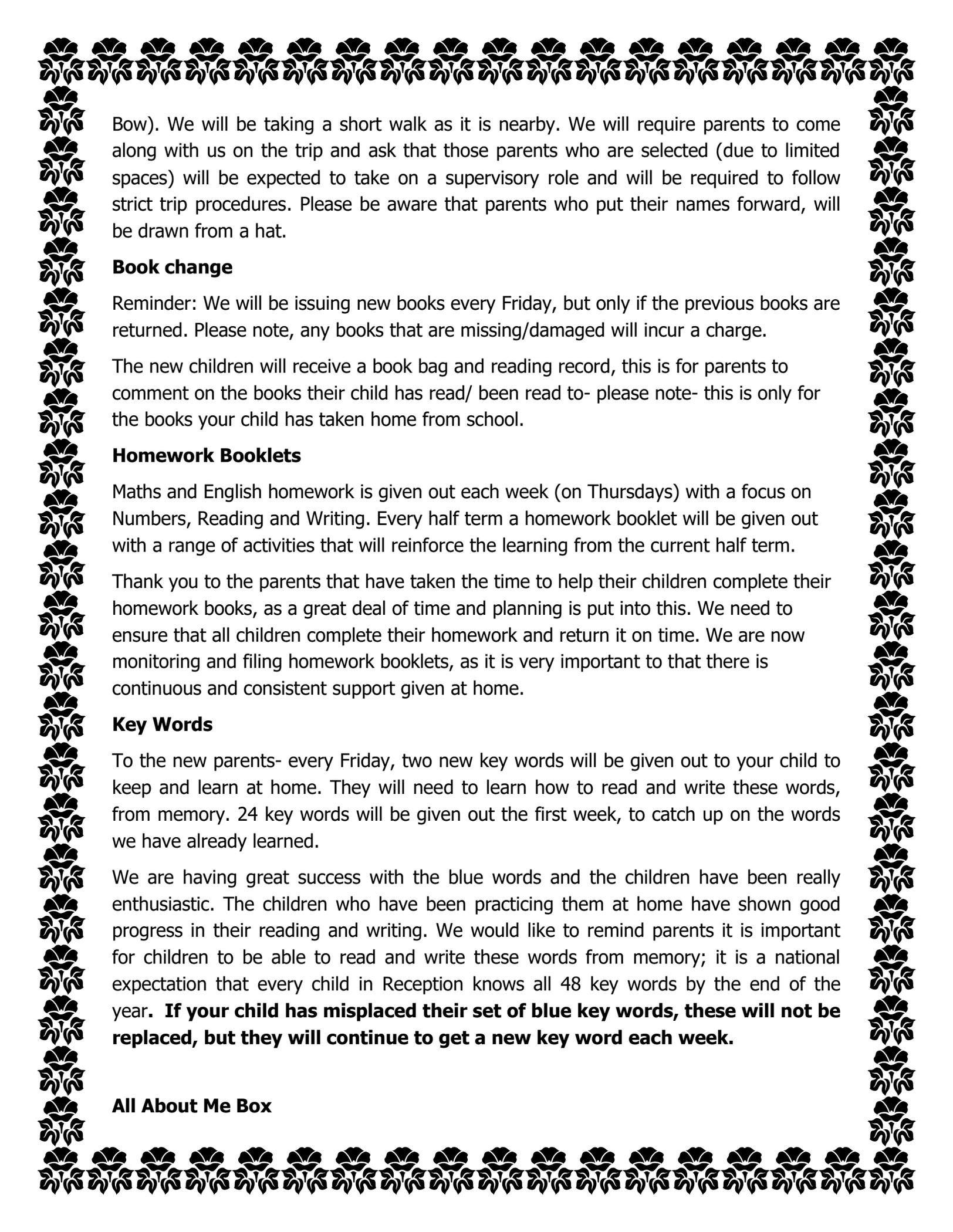
Our Sub topic is Spring

Activities include:

- Reading fiction and non-fiction texts linked to Spring
- Making our own celebration booklets about Easter
- Singing songs related to Seasons and the weather

Trips and visits

This half term, Reception will be visiting the Harley Grove Gudwara (Sikh temple in

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Bow). We will be taking a short walk as it is nearby. We will require parents to come along with us on the trip and ask that those parents who are selected (due to limited spaces) will be expected to take on a supervisory role and will be required to follow strict trip procedures. Please be aware that parents who put their names forward, will be drawn from a hat.

Book change

Reminder: We will be issuing new books every Friday, but only if the previous books are returned. Please note, any books that are missing/damaged will incur a charge.

The new children will receive a book bag and reading record, this is for parents to comment on the books their child has read/ been read to- please note- this is only for the books your child has taken home from school.

Homework Booklets

Maths and English homework is given out each week (on Thursdays) with a focus on Numbers, Reading and Writing. Every half term a homework booklet will be given out with a range of activities that will reinforce the learning from the current half term.

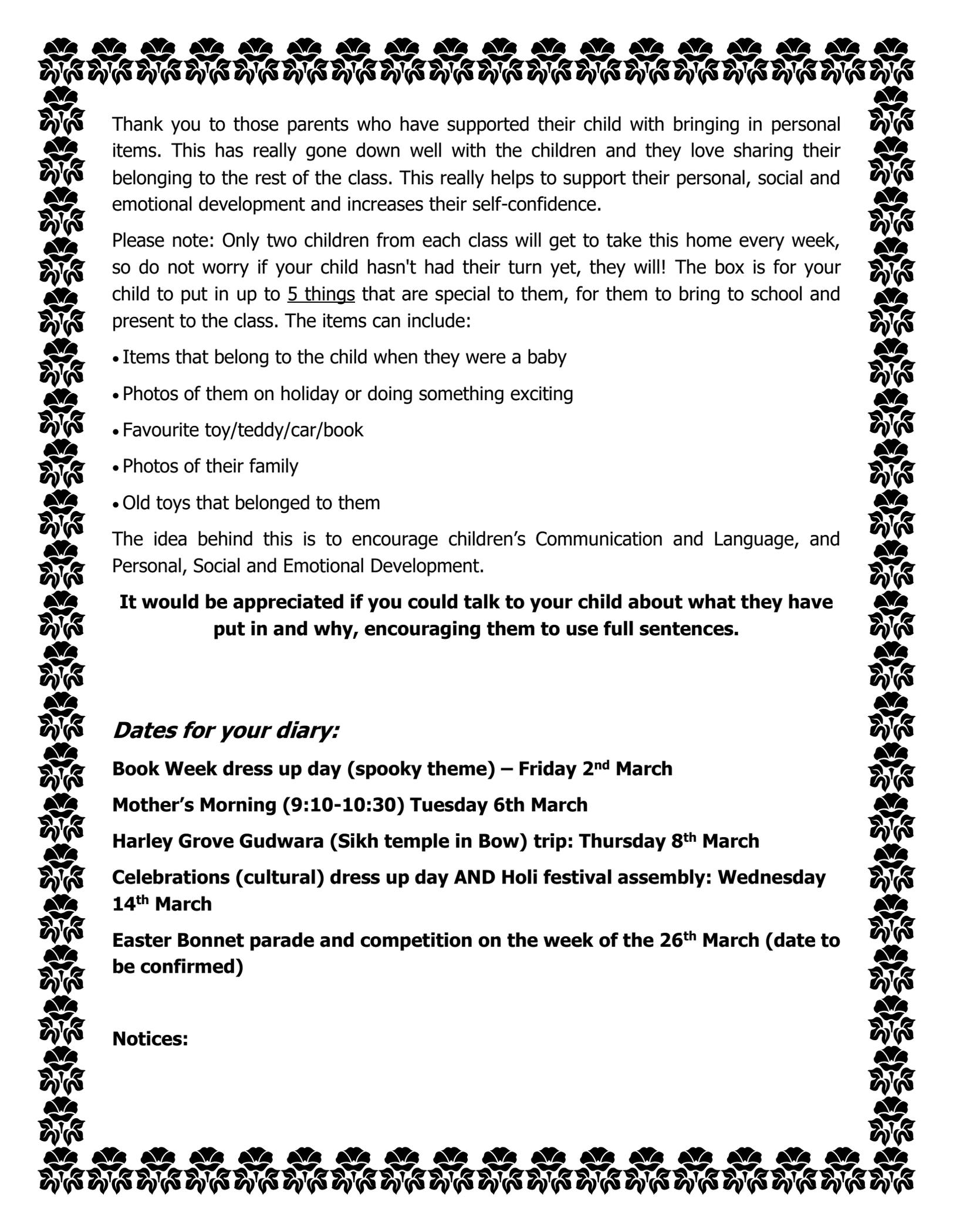
Thank you to the parents that have taken the time to help their children complete their homework books, as a great deal of time and planning is put into this. We need to ensure that all children complete their homework and return it on time. We are now monitoring and filing homework booklets, as it is very important to that there is continuous and consistent support given at home.

Key Words

To the new parents- every Friday, two new key words will be given out to your child to keep and learn at home. They will need to learn how to read and write these words, from memory. 24 key words will be given out the first week, to catch up on the words we have already learned.

We are having great success with the blue words and the children have been really enthusiastic. The children who have been practicing them at home have shown good progress in their reading and writing. We would like to remind parents it is important for children to be able to read and write these words from memory; it is a national expectation that every child in Reception knows all 48 key words by the end of the year. **If your child has misplaced their set of blue key words, these will not be replaced, but they will continue to get a new key word each week.**

All About Me Box

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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 5 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.

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:

Book Week dress up day (spooky theme) – Friday 2nd March

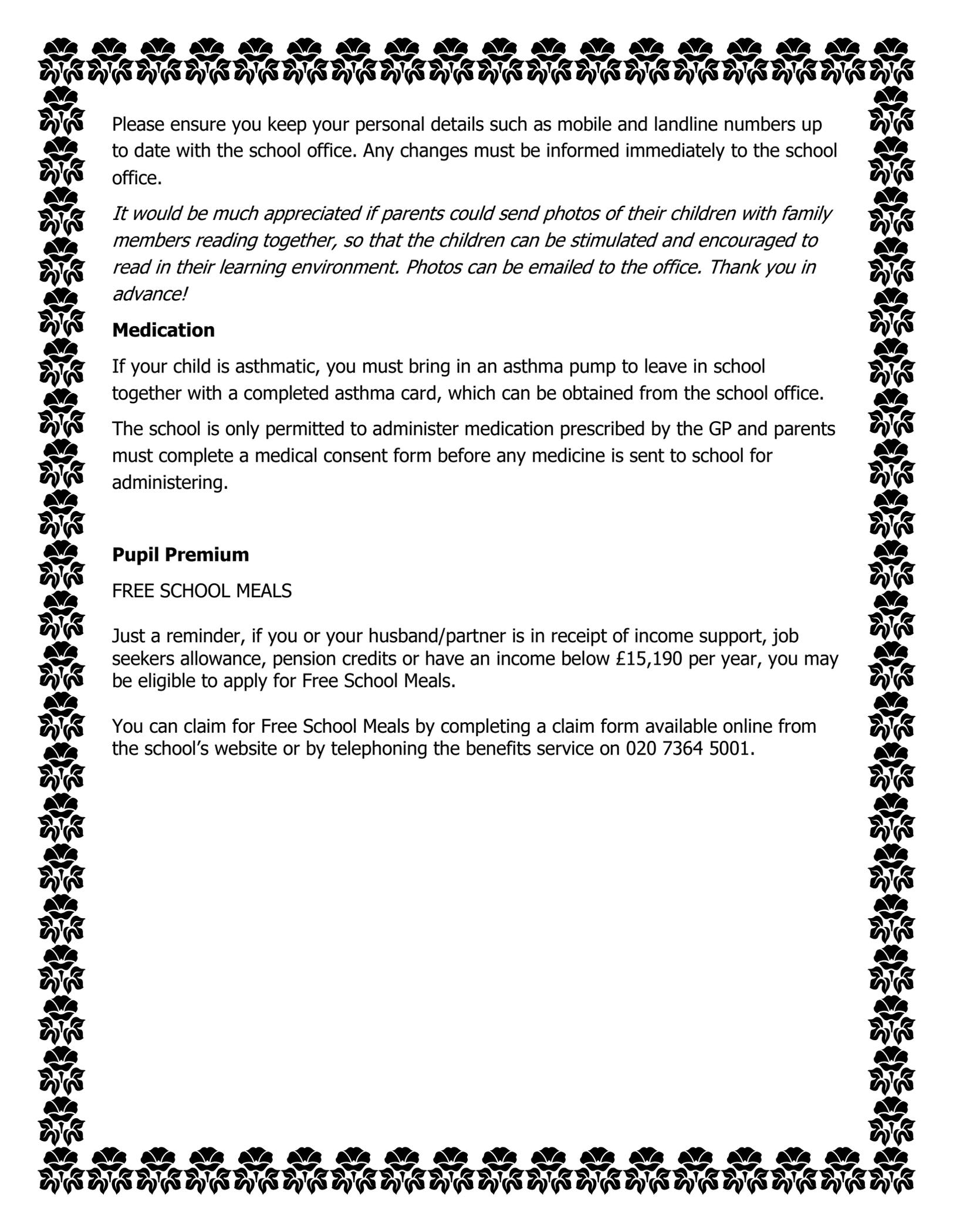
Mother's Morning (9:10-10:30) Tuesday 6th March

Harley Grove Gudwara (Sikh temple in Bow) trip: Thursday 8th March

Celebrations (cultural) dress up day AND Holi festival assembly: Wednesday 14th March

Easter Bonnet parade and competition on the week of the 26th March (date to be confirmed)

Notices:

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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.

It would be much appreciated if parents could send photos of their children with family members reading together, so that the children can be stimulated and encouraged to read in their learning environment. Photos can be emailed to the office. Thank you in advance!

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.