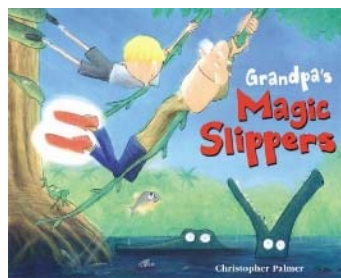


Dear Parents/ Carers,#

Welcome back to 2023. We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year! Firstly, we'd like to thank you for your support during the previous 2 terms particularly with learning some basic phonics and developing a passion for reading. Both Cherry and Apple Classes have settled so beautifully into school life. Their hunger for learning is incredible and they are building positive, respectful relationships with both their peers and teachers alike.

What will we be learning this term?

We have an exciting term planned that will start with the story, "Grandpa's Magic Slippers," where the children will use his magical slippers to 'travel' to exciting places around the world. As this story supports us in finding out about different geographical environments and recognising similarities and differences, we encourage you to learn together at home. You can do this by looking at different story settings or by talking about different places that you have visited or might see on the T.V, in magazines or in non-fiction books. We will be transforming our classrooms into various environments from around the world to help them explore and enjoy! One of the countries that we will 'travel' to will be China to learn about the Chinese New Year celebration. As we follow the children's interests, our topics evolve due to their fantastic ideas and imagination which make for an exciting learning adventure for us all. We would also like to explore and celebrate some of the children's own cultural recipes, dances and customs this year, so if any parents have any special skills, we'll be very happy to hear from you. In the past we have had Japanese origami and Polish and Indian recipes shared by parents.



P.E

This term the children will have PE on a Friday which will be outdoors or indoors so please ensure they have jogging bottoms, jumpers etc. We encourage PE kits to stay in children's lockers so that they are readily available throughout the week. This also helps if children have accidents so they have spare changes of clothes.

Work at home

It is really important that you try to hear your child read **daily** and that you read to your child daily too and we will continue to track this on the 'Boom Reader' App. This will help to develop a love of reading as well as immerse them in a rich vocabulary which aids their early writing. If any of you are experiencing problems with 'Boom Reader' please let us know as we have had to chase a few children to ensure they are reading every day at home. This is essential if they are to utilise their new-found phonics skills as we move into Phase 3 and 4 in Super Sonic Phonic Friends where we do more blending. Please continue to talk about the characters and settings, make predictions as to what you think might happen next and discuss how the characters are feeling and why they might be feeling that way. **Please record in your child's Boom Reading log** any stories that you have shared as the children are able to earn rewards in the form of bonus gems.

Your child will also read daily at school in phonics lessons and in many other contexts. Their book will be changed once a week - the day that your child will read and have their book changed has not changed so please ensure the book is in school on that day. We have sent home our first 'tricky word' sheet containing some tricky words which they need to be able to read and eventually spell. Why not encourage your child to try writing them in sand or shaving foam? You could write them on post-it notes which could be placed on the stairs, so that they can read them each time they go up to bed. For more information on 'tricky words/high frequency words please read Mr Cowell's post on Class Dojo. We will start to award our phonics certificates to generate motivation.

Please now help your child to:

segment words: say " ...cat, can you tell me each of the phonemes/ sounds you hear?" ...they break it down/segment and say "c-a-t"

blending words say " l-o-g now you blend " ... they say "...l-o-g. then they repeat it several times more quickly until they say "log"

This can be accompanied with the movement of both hands out as you segment, then brought back together as they blend the phonemes back.

Dojo celebrations

We would love to hear about your child's successes outside of school no matter how large or small - our wonderful children often make us say and make us feel incredibly proud when they achieve something new, so why not share that with us. You can do this by uploading a photo onto Dojo or the ILD and by writing a little message to go with it. We can talk about this with your child and they can share it with the class if they wish when using Dojo. Some examples may include: learning to put on their jumper independently, riding a bike without stabilisers, being brave at the doctors, swimming without armbands, trying new foods, sharing their toys with their brother/sister etc. It can be anything big or small that makes you feel proud.

We really love to hear from you, so if you have any questions, please feel free to send a note in with your child or email the school office; we can then organise a phone call if necessary. We look forward to sharing another fantastic term with you supporting our children to aspire, achieve and grow.

Many thanks,

Mrs Prophet, Mrs Wright, Mr Cowell and all of the Early Years Team