

We hope that you and your children enjoyed the May half term holiday. It is incredible that the hot weather arrived when we were away from school. Let's hope we have lots of sunny, but not too warm, days during this last half term of the academic year.

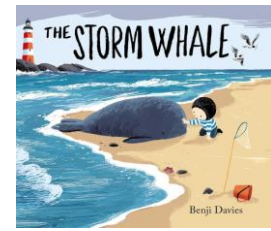
This half term, our topic is ***Our Wonderful World:***

"Wonderful Water." We will use our senses to explore water and consider why it is so important



in our daily lives. The children will carry out simple investigations, such as testing which objects float and sink and will learn about different sources of water in our local area. Looking further ahead, we will also explore seas and oceans, including an environmental focus on how we can look after and protect our planet.

The book we are using for our writing this half term is ***'The Storm Whale'*** by *Benji Davies*. This fits in well with our Wonderful Water theme and is also about friendship.



Reports

In July, we will send home your child's end-of-year report. At the end of the Foundation Stage, in Reception, children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs). We use what we know about each child and our experience of working with them to decide whether they have reached the expected level of development - "expected" or are still working towards this - "emerging".

For each child, this means they will be given either "expected" or "emerging" for each Early Learning Goal.

Transition to Year One

We have already been thinking about your child's transition to Year One. Miss Bowen visited Reception Class last Friday in our classroom and the Reception children will go to visit Miss Bowen in the Year One classroom for some story sessions in the coming weeks. These sessions will also provide opportunities for children to ask questions and discuss any thoughts or concerns they may have about their move after the summer holiday. If your child shares something about their transition that you would like support with, please let us know.



Miss Bowen

Towards the end of the half term, when we welcome the pre-school children to our school, there will be two afternoons when the Reception children will visit and spend a longer period with Miss Bowen in Year One. These sessions are important in familiarising the children with the adults who will be with them in September and the classroom that they will be learning in.

On Thursday 9th July, from 3.45pm-4.15pm we have an Open Classroom event, giving parents and carers the opportunity to visit with your child and go to their current classroom, but also to see where their classroom will be in September. For Reception children, the classroom is next door and the children having been passing by Miss Bowen and Mrs Holloway each morning throughout the year.

We are taking Reception Class to the **Infant Agility Festival** on Thursday 25th June where the children will participate in physical agility activities alongside children from other schools.

Phonics

We have continued to carry out checks to see which graphemes the children are able to recall from those we have taught. Lots of progress has been made, which has supported the children in both reading and writing.

This half term, we are teaching some new graphemes, which will be revisited when the children begin Year One. Our priority remains helping as many children as possible to confidently recall graphemes, recognise them in words, and practise segmenting and blending to read.

Please make sure your child's grapheme book is in their book bag each day, as we will be adding new graphemes to it at the end of each week. Do continue to look through the book with your child and support them in recalling as many as possible.

Thank you for reading regularly with your child – it makes a huge difference to their progress.

We are really looking forward to taking the children on our school trip to **Little Owl Farm Park** at the end of June. The trip will give the children lots of exciting opportunities, including seeing, touching and interacting with the animals. We will also be doing plenty of speaking and listening activities, encouraging the children to describe what they can see and how the experience makes them feel.



A letter with details of what the children will need for the day has already been sent out. If you would like another copy, please ask Mr Gavin in the office.

Sports Day is always a lovely event in our school calendar. The children will take part in a range of sporting activities, moving around the playground and the outer area of the school field.



Parents and carers are invited to stand in the middle of this area to watch and support the events as they take place. As it is a busy occasion, we kindly ask that spectators wave to their children but support staff by staying behind the barriers and not encouraging children to come over to them.

While we celebrate all that has gone well, we are always looking for ways to improve our practice. We would be very grateful if you would complete a short questionnaire about your child's first year at school.



We would love to hear what has worked well, as well as any areas where we could further support our future children and their families.

A link for the questionnaire will be emailed later in the term.



Thank you for your continued support. If we can help you and your child further in any way, please let us know. You can also email the school office office@stokeprior.worcs.sch.uk and a message will be passed to us.

With Best Wishes,
The Reception Team