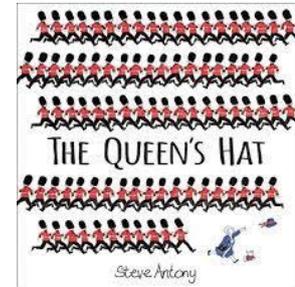


October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children all enjoyed half term. We are really looking forward to this term as our topic is one of our favourites. I am sure the term will go very quickly as we get closer to Christmas and start the rehearsals for our Nativity.

This term our topic is called 'Look Out, London' which is based around the story 'The Queen's Hat' by Steve Armitage. We will start the term by learning about Bonfire Night and why it is celebrated every year. We will then learn about the Royal Family and Buckingham Palace, before finding out about different London landmarks. Next we will imagine that we are travelling around London, by exploring the different types of transport before learning about the River Thames. Finally, we will end the term by learning about Christmas and how it is celebrated in London compared to our local area. There will be many opportunities to be creative as we will be building and making models of different landmarks and modes of transport, as well as singing London themed songs and pretending to be fireworks. We will be making comparisons between our local area and London, as well as comparing London nowadays to London in the past.

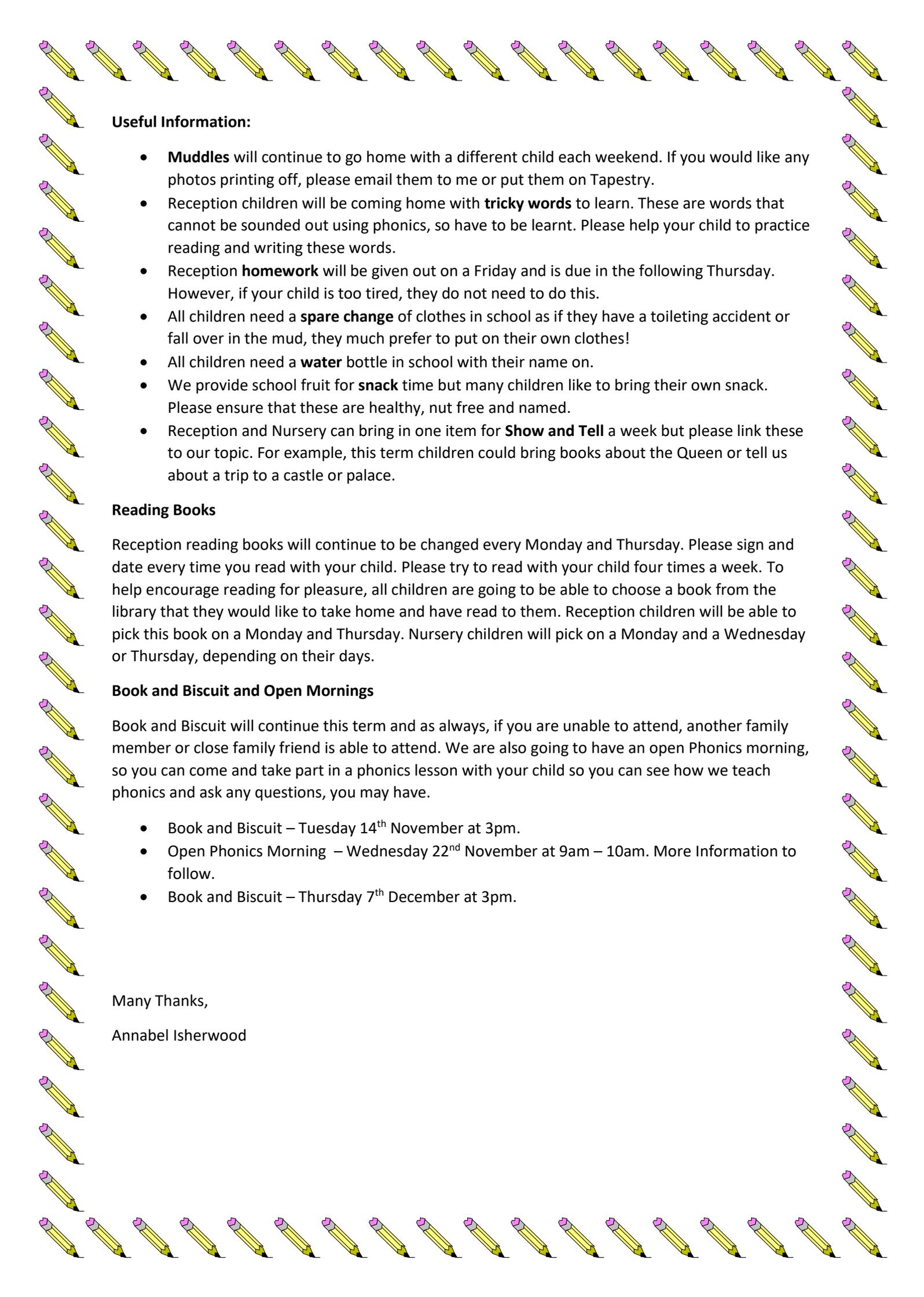


We are going to focus on The Queen's Hat in some of our guided reading sessions so we can discuss how the Queen is feeling, what she might say and recognise different parts of the story. In our Literacy sessions, we are going to focus on a different book linked to our topic each week as part of a programme called Drawing Club. The children will learn vocabulary linked to this book and will then use the chosen text to help them design their own character, setting and adventures. We are very excited about Drawing Club and hope that the children will find it enjoyable as it sparks their imagination and gives them the freedom to create their own stories.

In Phonics, Reception will continue to learn a new sound daily, linked to Jolly Phonics, and they will use the sounds they know to read and write words and captions. We will also be talking about finger spaces, full stops and capital letters, and tricky words will be introduced. Please help your child to learn to recognise and spell these words.

Nursery will take part in 'Talking Time' daily. They will continue to practice their listening skills and recognition of environmental sounds. They will share stories and talk about them, as well as having opportunities to Mark Make.

In Maths, Reception will spend the term learning about the numbers to 10. They will practice counting using 1:1 correspondence and will match numerals to the correct amount. They will start to recall one more and one less facts and explore the composition of numbers. They will practice writing numbers, showing finger numbers and subitising. Nursery children will explore the numbers 1 and 2. They will practice counting and subitising. There will be many opportunities for both Nursery and Reception to sing counting songs so they can orally count beyond the numbers they are learning. Linked to our topic, the children will learn about 2D and 3D shapes by making fireworks and London landmarks. They will be measuring and comparing the height of different London landmarks.



Useful Information:

- **Muddles** will continue to go home with a different child each weekend. If you would like any photos printing off, please email them to me or put them on Tapestry.
- Reception children will be coming home with **tricky words** to learn. These are words that cannot be sounded out using phonics, so have to be learnt. Please help your child to practice reading and writing these words.
- Reception **homework** will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday. However, if your child is too tired, they do not need to do this.
- All children need a **spare change** of clothes in school as if they have a toileting accident or fall over in the mud, they much prefer to put on their own clothes!
- All children need a **water** bottle in school with their name on.
- We provide school fruit for **snack** time but many children like to bring their own snack. Please ensure that these are healthy, nut free and named.
- Reception and Nursery can bring in one item for **Show and Tell** a week but please link these to our topic. For example, this term children could bring books about the Queen or tell us about a trip to a castle or palace.

Reading Books

Reception reading books will continue to be changed every Monday and Thursday. Please sign and date every time you read with your child. Please try to read with your child four times a week. To help encourage reading for pleasure, all children are going to be able to choose a book from the library that they would like to take home and have read to them. Reception children will be able to pick this book on a Monday and Thursday. Nursery children will pick on a Monday and a Wednesday or Thursday, depending on their days.

Book and Biscuit and Open Mornings

Book and Biscuit will continue this term and as always, if you are unable to attend, another family member or close family friend is able to attend. We are also going to have an open Phonics morning, so you can come and take part in a phonics lesson with your child so you can see how we teach phonics and ask any questions, you may have.

- Book and Biscuit – Tuesday 14th November at 3pm.
- Open Phonics Morning – Wednesday 22nd November at 9am – 10am. More Information to follow.
- Book and Biscuit – Thursday 7th December at 3pm.

Many Thanks,

Annabel Isherwood