



# Down on the Farm!



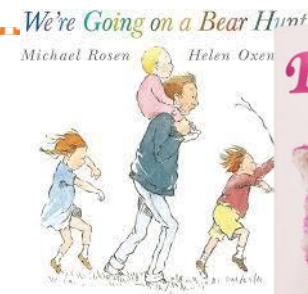
Dear Parents,

Spring 2 2024

Welcome back! As the days continue to draw out we look forward to seeing increasing signs of spring. Our topic this half term is 'Down on the Farm' beginning with a visit to the school's neighbouring farm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The children will participate in an exciting Launch to this topic, getting up close and personal with farm animals and finding out just how much hard work and careful planning goes into growing food and rearing animals. There are details of the exciting science week for later this half term below too. We are looking forward to all the fun and engaging activities that we have planned for the children, and hope that they'll enjoy them all too!

## Science Week 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March

As part of the launch to science week the children are all invited to dress as a scientist for the day on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**. Here are some ideas of outfits that can be easily home made using an oversized white short and some gardening or rubber gloves! The week will have a science theme and Conker class will be problem solving science puzzles and games on the Friday to see off the week with a bang (not literally!).



Reception are now taking part in **Drawing Club** following Yr1/2's daily 'English' session. Drawing Club is a true adventure based around picture books, tales and animations. It involves a short period of Time Together as a group followed by time when children explore their ideas creatively through picture and labels.

Drawing Club Immerses children in the world of story, shares a treasure trove of vocabulary, opening up a whole playground of language to them.

It develops children's creativity and imagination to show them that they are extraordinary whilst giving age-appropriate practice that is highly engaging. Above all we hope it promotes a love of books, rhymes, animation, and story.

### More Junk Modelling Resources

As you know, the children are always being creative and making things with recycled materials, so we are continuously needing to replenish the resources. Please send in any recycled items you may have at home for our craft area such as: small boxes, egg cartons, kitchen roll tubes, wrapping paper tubes and buttons. Thank you very much in advance!

### Forest School Mondays and PE Fridays

Conkers children will now have forest school on a Monday afternoon until the Easter break. We have waterproofs and some spare wellies, but if your child is more comfortable wearing their own then please send them in a named bag to leave on their peg. Children can continue to come to school on Fridays wearing their PE kit. Miss Normington will teach netball with Mr Mortimer each Friday afternoon.

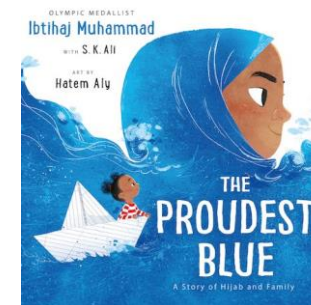
### Library Books

Every other Thursday afternoon, Pop up Library bring in a range of exciting books so that your child can choose one to take home to enjoy with you. Please remember to send them back into school a fortnight later, so they can swap it for a different book. **There are still a few books that need returning- please can you check at home.**

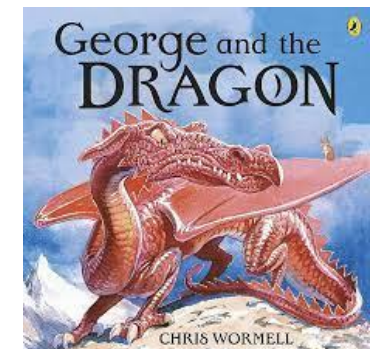


### Talk Through Stories

This half term, we will be continuing to focus on tier 2 words that children don't generally use in their day to day conversations. We will be reading a different book every week and playing little games focussing on various key words. These are the front covers of the books that we will read this half term. If you have these or similar titles at home, it would be great if you could send them in for us to discuss with your child.



**Natural Resources**  
We're collecting natural resources to add to our outdoor area including shells, pebbles, pine cones, tree branch sections and wooden building blocks. If you would like to donate any of these, then we would really appreciate it.  
**Thank you!**





## What Are We Learning About?

In English, your child will be writing book reviews of favourite stories. They will spend two weeks writing letters; the first week will be non-fiction thank you letters linked with the exciting school-based shared experiences. This will be an opportunity to work on their application of punctuation and letter formation. The second week will be more imaginative in the form of a persuasive letter linked to the story 'The Last Wolf.'

In maths, Reception children will explore height, length and time with fun measuring activities inside and out. They will learn how to add and subtract using the numerals 9 and 10 to find number facts such as  $3+7=10$  and  $1$  less than  $10 = 9$ . Year 1 and 2 children will also explore length and height, using their knowledge of number facts and calculations to solve problems and conduct open-ended investigations. Year 1 children will work on numbers up to 50; adding, subtracting and applying their knowledge of number bonds to larger numbers. Year 2 children have worked very hard to begin understanding multiplication and division as groups of. This will continue before moving into problem solving using height and length.

In Science, your child will be exploring the parts of a plant and labelling them. They will learn the names of some of the common garden and wild plants and also the names of common deciduous and evergreen trees. They will label the basic structure of a plant and a tree and find out the function of each part too. They will also predict which cress seeds will grow most successfully, then observe the growth and measure the height of the cress daily.



## What Are We Learning About?

In Geography 'Our Local Area' children will compare the human and physical features of familiar places. We will start with our farm visit and a walk around Leavening and compare this to a city environment such as York. Children in Year 1 and 2 will begin to use a compass to find key features shown on maps or aerial photographs. Children in Reception will draw and follow simple maps, describing what they can see.

In PE, Miss Normington and Mr Mortimer will teach children netball. As part of this the class will build up their confidence throwing, catching and bouncing a ball individually and with a partner, or as part of a game. Mrs Bennet and Miss Normington will teach forest school to explore the great dry outdoors, after all that wet weather that we've had over winter!

In Music, Mrs Stockill will be helping your child to develop their skills as performers using tuned and untuned percussion. In Reception they will explore, create and choose sounds then identify how sounds can be changed. They will play instruments in different ways to create sound effects. In year 1 and 2 children will explore, create and choose sounds to perform rhythmical patterns and accompaniments.

In French, Mrs Stockill will be asking the children to name colours and animals in French- specifically farm animals.

In Understanding the World and Religious Education, your child will be learning about what being special means and what it means to belong to a faith community. They will be focussing on Christian and Jewish people and how they celebrate their religions as a community.

In Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education we will be focussing on developing independence and resilience through self-reliance.

We look forward to visits to the farm and inspirational sessions with local authors. What an exciting half term!