



Early Years Newsletter

What a fantastic first half term we have all had in yrR.

We are amazed with how well all the children have settled into school.

They have made new friends, explored exciting activities and produced some amazing work. We have enjoyed getting to know your children and yourselves!

Our Topic

Space!

Our next topic, 'Space!', is inspired by the children's interests. We will be looking at different planets, stars and space rockets. We will use our topic to inspire our phonics lessons, maths and literacy work. We also have some fun creative work planned in art, design technology, music, cookery and PE.

Phonics will continue and we thank you all for supporting your children with their phonics homework and reading. It really does make a difference to their learning.



Change to the Morning Routine

We are so impressed with how the children are coming to school in the morning. We feel they will soon be ready to join the rest of the school in saying goodbye at the main blue or white gate and walking round to the playground on their own or with their teacher.

We will start this new routine on Monday 9th November. This will allow them time to settle again after half term.

From Monday 9th November YrR staff will be on the gates at 9.10am, just before the children's usual start time, to walk the children round to class.

I know some children are happily walking around on their own already and if you would like to adopt this new routine sooner, please do.

If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher.





Homework



Please make sure your child has a book bag on a Friday.



Every Friday your child will bring home their new reading books, phonics letter formation sheets to support phonics learning covered this week and tricky words (when they get to their next set). If they are still needing a little support to write their name in 'school letters' this will come home too.

To help you support your child, I have attached the rhymes we say to help the children form the letters as well as a sound mat with all the letters on.

We have started all our children on the first set (purple) of tricky words. If you were able to help your child practise these 3-4 times a week it would greatly benefit them in their reading and writing at school.

Timetable

Below is a timetable of some of the lessons that will go on weekly. Hopefully it will help those conversations about their school day!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Monitors	PE	RE	PE RE Music French (starting soon)	Reading books Tricky words

We will also be having daily phonics, literacy and numeracy lessons.

Free play, art activities and gross motor activities (bikes, climbing equipment...) will continue to take place daily, both inside and outside. We will also visit the playtrail most days!

Water Bottles

All children need to have a water bottle at school, even if they are having a school packed lunch. Having a water bottle at school allows children to have regular drinks, be independent and make sure they are not sharing cups etc.

If children don't have a water bottle we are having to provide disposable cups that are thrown away after every drink, which adds up to a lot of cups throughout the day for just one child.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Wet Weather

We feel it is important for children to explore the outdoor area in all weathers (within reason!). Please could you ensure that children have a named coat when the weather is cold and /or rainy. If children have a spare pair of named welly boots that could be kept at school that would be ideal!



Please do fill in an 'I'm Proud of my child because...' and send into class on a Friday or email jverhiest@st-swithuns.portsmouth.sch.uk (photos welcome) so we can celebrate.

I'm proud of my child because...

Child's name: _____

From _____ Date _____

I'm proud of my child because...

Child's name: _____

From _____ Date _____

I'm proud of my child because...

Child's name: _____

From _____ Date _____

I'm proud of my child because...

Child's name: _____

From _____ Date _____

Phase 2 Sound Mat



Phase 3 Sound Mat



Start on the line, go around the apple, down the leaf and flick.



Start on the line, go up the boot, down the laces to the heel, round the toe and flick.



Start on the line, go up to the head and curl back round the caterpillar and flick.



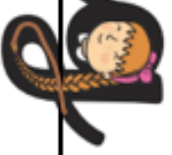
Start on the line, go up then back round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his toes and flick.



Start on the line and lift off the top and scoop out the egg and flick.



Start on the line, go up to the petal, down the stem follow it round and flick.



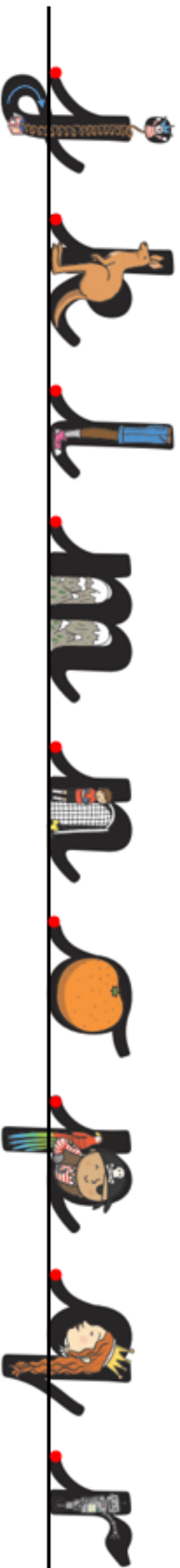
Start on the line, go up to her brow, back round her face to her brow, follow her hair and flick.



Start on the line, go up to the head, down to the hooves, over the back and down the tail and flick.



Start on the line, go up the insect, down the insect and flick.
Now give it a dot!



Start on the line, go up to the top, down the spring and round and flick. Dot the head!

Start on the line, go up to the head, down to the feet, up to the hands and round the bottom follow the tail and flick.

Start on the line, go up the leg, down the leg and flick.

Start on the line, go up the mountain, over the mountain, over the mountain and flick.

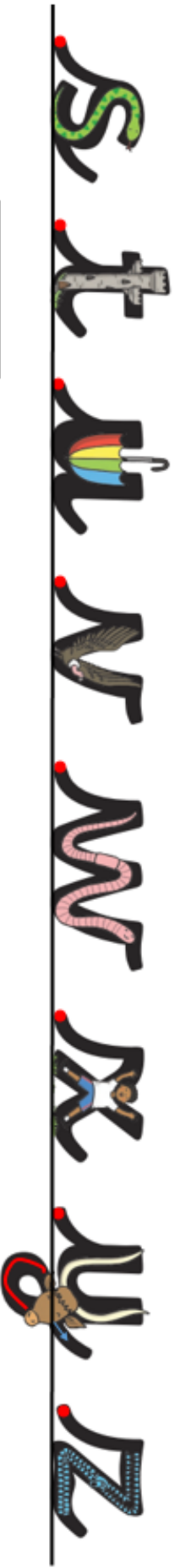
Start on the line, go up ~~Nobbb~~ down ~~Nobbb~~ and over the net and flick.

Start on the line, go up to the orange to the green, then back all the way round the orange and flick.

Start on the line, go up to the parrot, down the parrot up and around the pirate and flick.

Start on the line, go up to her crown, back round her face to the crown and down her hair and flick.

Start on the line, go up to the robot, down the robot, up the robot and over his arm and flick.



Start on the line, go up to his head, then either down the snake and flick.

Start on the line, go up the tower down the tower and flick. Now across the tower!

Start on the line, go up the umbrella down and under and up the umbrella, down and flick.

Start on the line, go up then down his wing to his body and up the other wing and flick.

Start on the line, go up to her tail, down up, down, up and flick.

Start on the line, up to his hand, turny, foot up to the other hand, turny, foot and flick.

Start on the line, up to the horn down, up the other horn, down to his mouth, follow his tongue and flick.

Start on the line, up to the zip, zig-zag-zig and flick.

