



# Early Years Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year! Subsequent newsletters will go out just before the end of each half term, to inform you of what is coming up.

We have been pleased by how quickly everyone has settled and how new friendships have blossomed. Now all our children are full time the real fun can begin as they start their learning journey.

## Our Topic

### Superheroes

Our next topic is called 'Supertato to the Rescue!' As well as basing some of our learning around this story, we will also be talking about other superheroes we like, write about what super powers we would like to have and think about how we can make sure we always chose to do the right, just like our favourite superheroes.

On top of all this we will be doing lots of superhero training in PE and completing assault courses using the equipment!



### 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 during the week that would be ideal!



### Junk Modelling

Please could you bring in your recyclables like cereal boxes, bottle tops and kitchen rolls (no toilet rolls please) for junk modelling after half term.

### Water Bottles Plea!

All children need to have a water bottle at school, even if they are hot dinners. 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 for your support.

### 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
PE	PE RE	* Music, French & Library	RE *Music, French & Library	Homework

We will also be having daily phonics, literacy and numeracy lessons. Individual reading books will be changed weekly on your child's designated day. 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! \*The day will change weekly





### Reading books!

Very soon we will be sending home reading books. To begin with your child may have a book with no words. These are designed to help children extend their language and knowledge of books by talking about what they see in the pictures. Books with words will be introduced as we start our teaching of phonics.

If you are keen to help support your child at home with phonics and early reading please do, try to join our phonics workshop on TEAMS. During this session we will explain how phonics and early reading is taught and how you can support your child at home.

Your child will also be given a reading day. This is the day we will do our best to ensure reading books are changed. Please ensure your child has their reading book everyday as we will hear them read as often as possible.

When we hear your child read we will always write in their diary but please don't feel you have to write a long comment when you hear them at home. Some parents prefer to write the date they hear their child read, others write in there just when they have a question (diaries may not be checked daily) or if their child has read particularly well, others like to write in there every time they hear their child read, please do what you feel comfortable with. We recommend you hear your child 3-4 times a week, as well as reading to them (a range of books) as often as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

### Upcoming events!

Next week is **parents' evening**, if you have any problems booking please phone the office. Parents' evening will take place via TEAMS, if we have problems reaching you via TEAMS we will phone.

We will also be having a **family learning session on Phonics, Reading and Early Writing** via TEAMS on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 4.15pm. Please register your interest with the office.

### Before and after school

*We would be very grateful if you could reinforce some of our school rules when dropping off and collecting your child.*

*We do not let the children play on the slopes or railings outside the classroom for obvious safety reasons, we would be most grateful if you could reinforce this with your child and their siblings.*

*We also ask that children do not play with the outside toys or structures, this includes the plastic house and tent. This is because a lot of our resources were damaged beyond repair last year.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*



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](mailto: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

Ss 	Aa 	Tt 	Pp 	Ii 	Nn 	Mm 	Dd 
Gg 	Oo 	Cc 	Kk 	ck 	Ee 	Uu 	Rr 
Hh 	Bb 	Ff 	ff 	Ll 	ll 	ss 	

Jj 	Vv 	Ww 	Xx 	Yy 	Zz 	zz 	au 
ch 	sh 	th 	ng 	ai 	ee 	igh 	oa 
oo 	oo 	ar 	or 	ur 	ow 	oi 	ear 
air 	ure 	er 					

# 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.



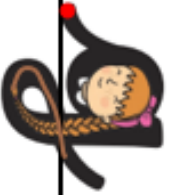
Start on the line, go up then back round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his toes and flick.



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.



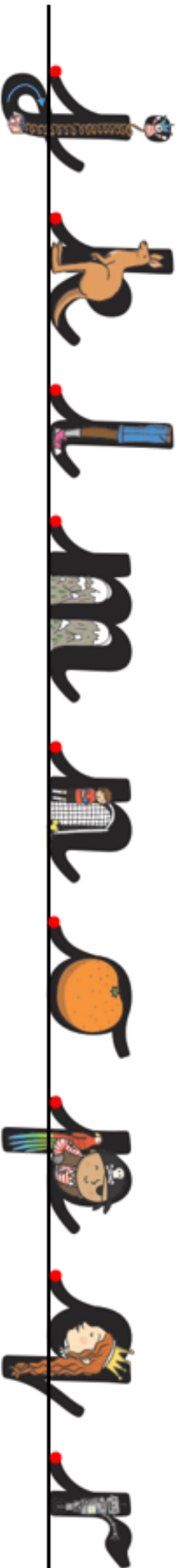
Start on the line, go up to her brow, back round her face to her brow, follow her hair and flick.



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 tail and flick.

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

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

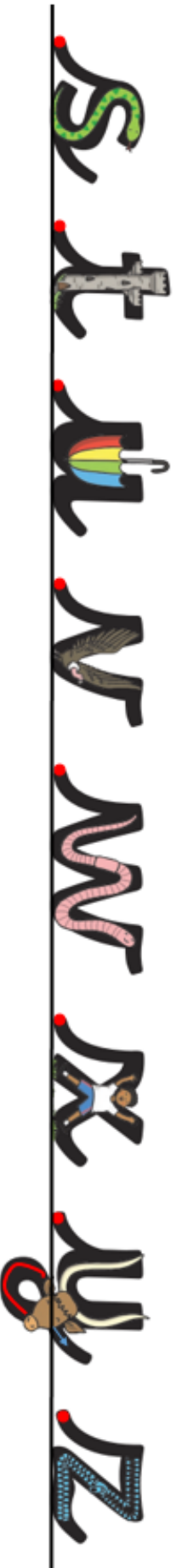
Start on the line, go up to ~~Nobby~~, down ~~Nobby~~, and over the net and flick.

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 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, goot up to the other hand, goot 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 zig, zig-zag-zig and flick.