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## Reception Spring Term Topic Letter

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# When I Grow Up

Dear Parents and Carers,

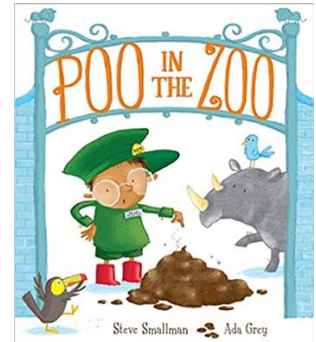
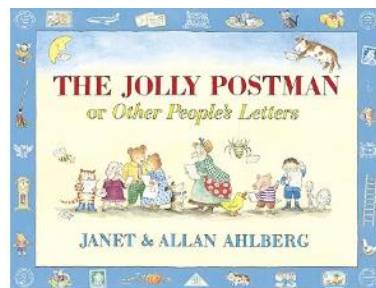
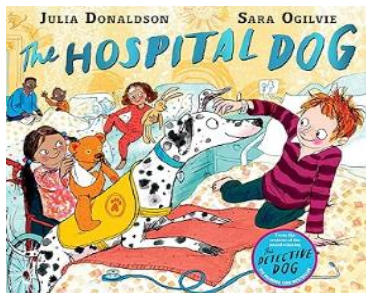
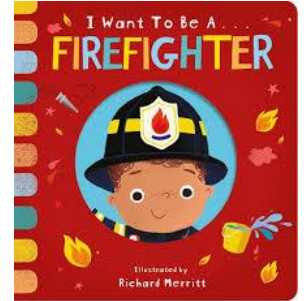
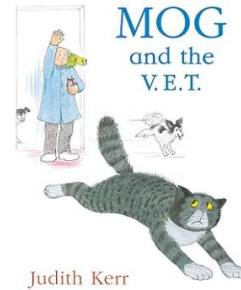
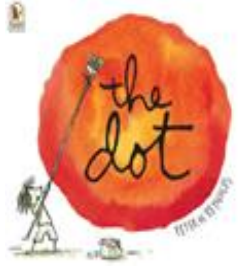
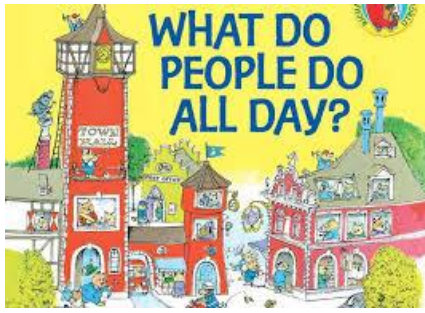
Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a relaxing break. I'm really excited about the term ahead. The children made such fantastic progress during the Autumn term, and they have quickly settled back in and are ready for the learning opportunities ahead.

This term, our topic is **When I Grow Up...**

The children are really excited by our new topic, and we have already started having great discussions about occupations that interest them. Role-play will play a significant role in this topic, as it is a fantastic way to develop communication and language skills, social skills, and creative thinking. We will also include as many independent writing opportunities in the role-play areas as possible. We will have role-play days where we will pretend to be firefighters, vets, and other occupations of interest. On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, please arrange a costume as we will dress up as our desired occupation. If your child wishes to dress as a princess, a pirate even a dinosaur, this is completely fine! Please don't purchase anything, just let me know if this isn't possible, as I have plenty of spare costumes. Throughout the term, we will have real-life experiences, such as a visit from the firefighters at Kentish Town Fire Station. We also have a vet experience planned during our trip to the London Zoo, and role-play opportunities during our trip to the Postal Museum.

So far, the children have expressed an interest in astronauts, firefighters, police, vets, doctors, artists and musicians. If you have any knowledge or special talents in these areas that you would be happy to share, please let me know!

We will be exploring a range of books to introduce the children to different occupations. Through these stories, the children will be encouraged to make predictions, ask questions and make connections with their own experiences. We will also use the books as inspiration to create artwork, which will be displayed in our very own art exhibition at the end of the term for you to come and visit.



## Reading

Please continue reading with your child every day. It's one of the most effective ways to support their learning and development. This term, the children will continue to have three reading sessions with me each week. Please ensure your child brings their book bag every day, as the book-changing day may vary depending on the week's schedule.

Remember, they are always welcome to swap their picture books whenever they like. We will also make sure to change their book during our weekly session.

Please ensure reading is fun and enjoyable. If you can see your child is struggling, read the story to them first then they can have a go. They could fill in the gaps or have a little treasure hunt at the end of the story. Such as, "Can you find the word *the* for me?" or "Put your finger on the word *I*."















Talk to them about what they see in the book and what words might be on the page? It is always a good idea to ask them a little bit about the book when you have finished to check their understanding. Can they show you their favourite page? Why is that their favourite? etc.

The Early Learning Goal for reading that we want to get the children to by the end of Reception is - 'Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonics knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.'

If you have any questions about reading, please do not hesitate to ask. Your written feedback in your child's reading diary is also greatly appreciated.

## Phonics

I am so impressed with the progress the children have made in their phonics learning so far! This term, we will continue to follow the Little Wandle programme. On this page, <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>, you will find resources to help you support your child with saying their sounds and letter formations. There are also helpful videos that show how these skills are taught in school, so you can feel confident supporting their reading at home. This half term, we will be focusing on the following digraphs (two letters making one sound) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound).

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review Autumn Learning	 ai tail in the rain	 oo zoom to the moon	 ur curl the fur	 air chair in the air	Review week
	 ee sheep in a jeep	 oo hook a book	 ow wow owl	 er a bigger digger	
	 igh a light in the night	 ar march in the dark	 oi boing boing		
	 oa soap that goat	 or born with a horn	 ear get near to hear		

After half term, we will revisit any sounds that may need more practice and focus on applying them to both reading and spelling. Some of these, particularly the trigraphs, can take a bit more time.

One great way to support your child's phonetic understanding at home is by playing oral blending games, such as Sound Talk, where you say a word using sounds for your child to blend (for example, "Can you put on your c-oa-t?"), or by playing "I Spy" using sounds.

This term, the children will be working on blending longer words, which requires them to hold more sounds in their memory. Practising this orally will really help them make progress.

### **Mathematics**

This term's focus will include: counting beyond 10, using vocabulary to compare amounts, finding one more and one less, recalling number bonds up to 10, repeating patterns and length, weight and capacity. We will continue to play lots of fun number games to support this, as well as apply maths to everyday contexts.

### **Notes**

No Forest School this term

PE will be on Tuesdays each week.

Margret will continue to teach and work with the children on Wednesdays.

### **Important Dates:**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January** - Occupation Dress Up Day

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Stay and Play

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** Trip to Postal Museum - Pack lunch required

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February:** Kentish Town Firefighter Visit in-school visit (unless they get a call out)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February:** Fire Fighters Role-Play Day in school

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February:** Half Term

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March:** Reading Café

**March (TBC):** Health Care Professionals Role-Play Day in School

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Trip to the October Gallery – Pack lunch required

**March(TBC):** Parents Meetings

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Trip to London Zoo, Zoo Town Workshop – Pack lunch required

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Reception Art Open Morning

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Last day of school – 2:00 pm finish

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Abida Tanjum and the Reception team