

Executive Headteacher: Helen Bruckdorfer BA

Thursday, 28 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term 2022 at Torriano. For the summer term, we continue our whole school theme, The Art of Explanation. We kicked off the term by celebrating Earth Day on Friday, encouraging the children to consider innovative ways to help combat climate change and develop our relationship with nature. We will also be taking part in a whole school project called The World Reimagined.

Reception and Nursery will embark on their STEAM learning and project. The children will use their science learning to further develop their investigative skills with our Scientist in Residence Dr Lucy Collinson from the CRICK Institute. We will also be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the end of this half term.

This letter and curriculum leaflet gives further information regarding this term's learning. You will be updated regularly through the newsletter, website and school Twitter feed @TorrianoJuniorS.



Learning in Reception

The attached curriculum leaflet gives you an overview of the learning that will be taking place in Reception this term. Our STEAM topic will see the children becoming scientists as they observe seasonal changes and explore changing states of matter. Our second project, 'The Next Step', will take the children on a magical adventure through the oral telling of stories and further develop their creative story writing skills. As we approach the end of the year, we will be reflecting on our time in Reception and supporting the children with their transition into Year 1.

Trips

We are delighted to be able to plan and take children on a range of educational trips once again. All trips will be risk assessed and you will be informed about them in advance. This term we will be visited by some industry professionals to support with our STEAM project and will further explore our local area to investigate the changing seasons and find evidence of climate change. Our partnership and trips for the Next Step project are still to be confirmed.



Attendance and Punctuality



Ted and Earl will be on the lookout for good attendance and prompt school arrival this term. We will be celebrating good attendance and time-keeping behaviour in our weekly special achievement assemblies. Attendance at school is essential for all children, to support their academic development and wellbeing. We continue to work towards our attendance target of 97%. We appreciate the challenges that Covid presents and take this into account for children's attendance. We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance using Arbor to ensure their attendance remains excellent. Please ensure you download the Arbor App to access your child's profile and complete payments.

Home Learning

<p>Phonics - Little Wandle</p> 	<p>The spring term saw the successful implementation of the new systematic synthetic phonics programme 'Little Wandle'. Phonics lessons continue to take place daily in Reception with a focus on consolidating learning from phases 2 and 3 through recapping and revision. We will be blending more GPCs in single words to read two syllable words this term with an increased focus on reading tricky words as well as reading and understanding sentences.</p> <p>An exciting element of this new programme is the role of decodable books in supporting children's growth as readers. Children will continue to take part in group reading sessions across the week, reading a decodable book that has been chosen for them based on the sounds that they have already learnt in class. This means that our children will not encounter unfamiliar GPCs (sounds) in their books, ensuring success in reading and boosting their confidence as readers.</p> <p><i>The online reading platform will continue this term while we build up our selection of decodable books for home.</i></p>
<p>Home reading</p> 	<p>Parental support is hugely important for developing reading skills, confidence and understanding. Even if children are independent readers, we still encourage parents to read with them, listen to children read and discuss the books they are reading.</p> <p>Reading daily at home with an adult is crucial to helping your child make progress. In Reception, children should be reading at home for around 10 minutes a day. To help the teachers understand what and how much children are reading, we request that parents/carers complete their reading record ('Monkey Book') once a week with a simple comment. Reading records and books must be brought in to class every day (in your child's school book bag). Reading records will be checked regularly by adults, with an adult comment once a week.</p>



<p>Fluency in maths</p> 	<p>Knowing number facts is an important tool to enable your child to feel confident in maths. Revising number facts, including counting and recognising numbers, is an easy way to support your child's progress in mathematics and we encourage children to revise them regularly.</p>
<p>New words</p> <p><i>Ask me what this means</i></p> 	<p>Direct vocabulary teaching takes place each week. On a Friday, children choose one of their new words to wear on a sticker. We encourage you to speak to your child about their chosen word each week as this will help them to deepen their understanding of the word and to develop their oracy skills!</p>
<p>Tapestry</p> 	<p>In EYFS, we use an online learning journal called 'Tapestry'. Staff use this to share examples of your child's learning through photos and videos of what they have been doing in school. You can download the 'Tapestry' application onto your tablet or phone to view these and can also use the app to share news and learning which has taken place at home. If you need any assistance with accessing Tapestry, please speak to one of the Reception Team.</p>

Homework, reading books and reading records should be kept in a book bag as these are used/referred to regularly in class.

PE

PE will take place every Tuesday afternoon. Children will not be changing for PE so please ensure they wear appropriate clothes for physical activity on these days, including trainers. Please note, we have and will continue to do a Daily Mile, so it is important that children wear appropriate footwear daily.

We look forward to an exciting year and are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

Hannah, Alex and Gina
Reception Team