

# Summer One



# How many pebbles on the beach?



Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside!

How many pebbles on the beach? Which creatures live beside the sea?  
It's time to breathe in the salty air and explore the seashore.

Welcome back!

Within this newsletter you will find information about what your child will be learning between now and the half term break. At this stage in the year, we work within the 30-50 months objectives of the 'Development Matters' document and they will be brought to life through our topic 'How many pebbles on the beach?' We hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher, key worker or Mrs Elton (EYFS Leader).

We hope you and your child have a great half term!



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April -  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

## Reminders

**All children** should bring a water bottle to school every day please, especially as the weather continues to get warmer. Water bottles should only contain **plain water** and must be named.

Children should also bring a sun hat as our outdoor area gets very sunny.

On days when the sun is strong, children should come to school with sun cream already applied. For children who attend Nursery full time, you are welcome to send in a small named bottle of sun cream, which your child can apply themselves in the middle of the day.

**All belongings** should be clearly labelled with your child's name please.

## Key Dates

**May Day**  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Northumberland Day**  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

The Nursery day starts at **8.30am** for full time and morning children and **12.15pm** for afternoon children.

Arriving on time is essential so that that we can begin our daily routines as soon as we have walked the children over to Nursery from the bungalow.



## Tapestry

We love to see the learning and lovely activities your child experiences at home. Please remember to upload photographs, videos and comments to your child's Tapestry online learning journal. Also, please remember to check your child's Tapestry account regularly for new observations and press the 'like' button to let us know you have seen it. If you have any problems logging on, please speak to a member of staff.



## Library Books

Library books will be changed with the children every fortnight on a Friday. The date that they need to be returned by is written on the label on the front of your child's library book folder.





### How many pebbles on the beach?

This half-term we will be learning all about the beach and British seashore. To begin our topic, we will engage the children's interest using a range of books, video clips and real life articles. We'll explore rockpools and find out what lives there and 'mystery boxes' containing items such as seaweed, wet sand, fish, pebbles and shells. This will invite the children to use all of their senses as they predict and guess what is in the box. To support your child, you could visit a local beach and explore the rockpools, on the lookout for living creatures that may be hiding under rocks and stones. St. Mary's Lighthouse at Whitley Bay is a great place to do this. Together, you could even do some research using books and the internet to find out about your favourite creature that lives at the seashore.



**Home Learning**  
We will be sending home a separate sheet outlining a range of fun and practical activity ideas linked to our topic that you can engage with to enable you to support your child.



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As they begin their final full term in Nursery, the children will use the social skills they have been developing all year to share and take turns with the resources in the beach ice-cream shop. They will also be encouraged to listen and respond to the ideas of others as they role-play. Creative activities such as shell printing mosaics in the playdough will support the children to have the confidence to select the resources they need, decide how to use them and explain their preferences.



### Physical Development

This half-term as the weather improves, we hope to take the children out on to the school field and the climbing frame. It is essential that the children are wearing sensible, appropriate footwear and that they always bring a coat. To develop our motor skills this half term, we will use one-handed tools including spades, rakes and spoons to make sandcastles that the children can then decorate with loose parts such as shells, pebbles and buttons.

### Communication & Language

Talking underpins all of our learning in Early Years. During this half term, lots of our talk will help to build up the breadth of children's vocabulary, as they learn about things that are found at the beach and also the names of different sea creatures including crabs, fish and seabirds.

As the children explore our outdoor rockpool, we will incorporate our phonics learning and introduce the children to new words that they can use to describe what they find.

During small group sessions, we will investigate 'beachcomber baskets' containing man-made and natural objects found on the beach. The children will be expected to think about and answer questions such as 'What is it made from?', 'Who do you think it belongs to?', 'Why was it left on the beach?'. They will also be encouraged to ask their own questions and listen carefully to each other's answers.



## Letters and Sounds/Phonics

This half term we will begin with Phase 1, Aspect 6 which focuses on tuning into the different sounds we can make with our voices. This will prepare the children to move on to Aspect 7 – Oral Blending and Segmenting.

Blending is a vital skill for reading.

Oral blending is where the adult says each sound separately in words for the child to 'push' the sounds together and identify the word for example adult says 'm-a-t', child says 'mat'. There is an example activity lesson here - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4IRj\\_uHX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4IRj_uHX4)

Segmenting is a vital skill for spelling.

Oral segmenting is where the adult says the word first and then the child breaks it up into sounds for example adult says 'tin', child says 't-i-n'.

These skills are essential to prepare the children for when they move to Reception where they will learn what sounds look like and begin to read and write simple words. At this stage, we do not expect the children to match the letter to the sound until they have securely mastered how to blend and segment words orally. The emphasis in Nursery is on developing the ability to distinguish sounds and create sounds.

## Maths

The children will continue to practise their counting skills as they play 'Let's go fishing'. They will be asked to catch a specified number of fish in their net and then represent how many they have caught by holding up the corresponding number of fingers, drawing pictures, making marks or even writing the correct numeral.



## Understanding the World

As we find out and learn about the different animals and creatures that live in and around the seashore, we will talk to the children about the importance of looking after living things and the environment. To promote the children's curiosity we will provide a range of natural and man-made seashore objects for them to investigate and find out which objects float and which objects sink.



## Literacy and Reading

### Key Texts

As part of our topic, the key texts/stories we will be focusing on in Nursery this half-term are –  
Look at what I found! At the Seaside by Paul Humphrey  
Good Night Beach by Adam Gamble and Cooper Kelly  
Chu's Day at the Beach – by Neil Gaiman

Our reading area in the classroom will be full of non-fiction books about beaches and sealife and also story books about characters who live near or visit the seaside. The children will be encouraged to look at them with a friend and talk about the pictures. It would be great if you can share any stories at home to support our topic as reading to your child everyday is so important!



## Writing

Our shallow Tuff Spot will be filled with wet and dry sand for the children to practise writing using their fingers and other mark-making tools such as paintbrushes, pencils and cotton buds. Some children may even want to use their name label to support them to copy the letters in their name.

## Expressive Arts and Design

This half term our role-play area will become a beach ice-cream shop. Drawing on their own first-hand experiences, the children will use their imagination to either take on the role of the sales assistant or serve behind the ice-cream counter taking orders from customers. Throughout the topic we will learn and sing a range of seashore rhymes and songs as well as using percussion instruments to play along to our seashore-themed version of 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

