

Class Information

PE: This term the classes will need their named PE kits in school on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Earrings should not be worn in PE and we ask that children come to school **without** earrings on these days. We appreciate your support with this. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and speak to us.

Book bags: Please let your child bring their book bag in to school with them each day as it saves letters being mislaid. Please can reading books, reading diaries and purple phonics diaries also be brought in to school every day.

Library: During library time your child will be able to choose a library book to borrow and share with you at home. If you would like your child to change their library book each week, please make sure they have their library book with them on **Thursday and Friday**.

You are always more than welcome to come and chat to us if you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help!

Upcoming Dates

Zebra Sharing Afternoon is **Tuesday 16th January at 2.30pm**
Zebra Class Assembly is **Thursday 22nd March at 2.40pm**

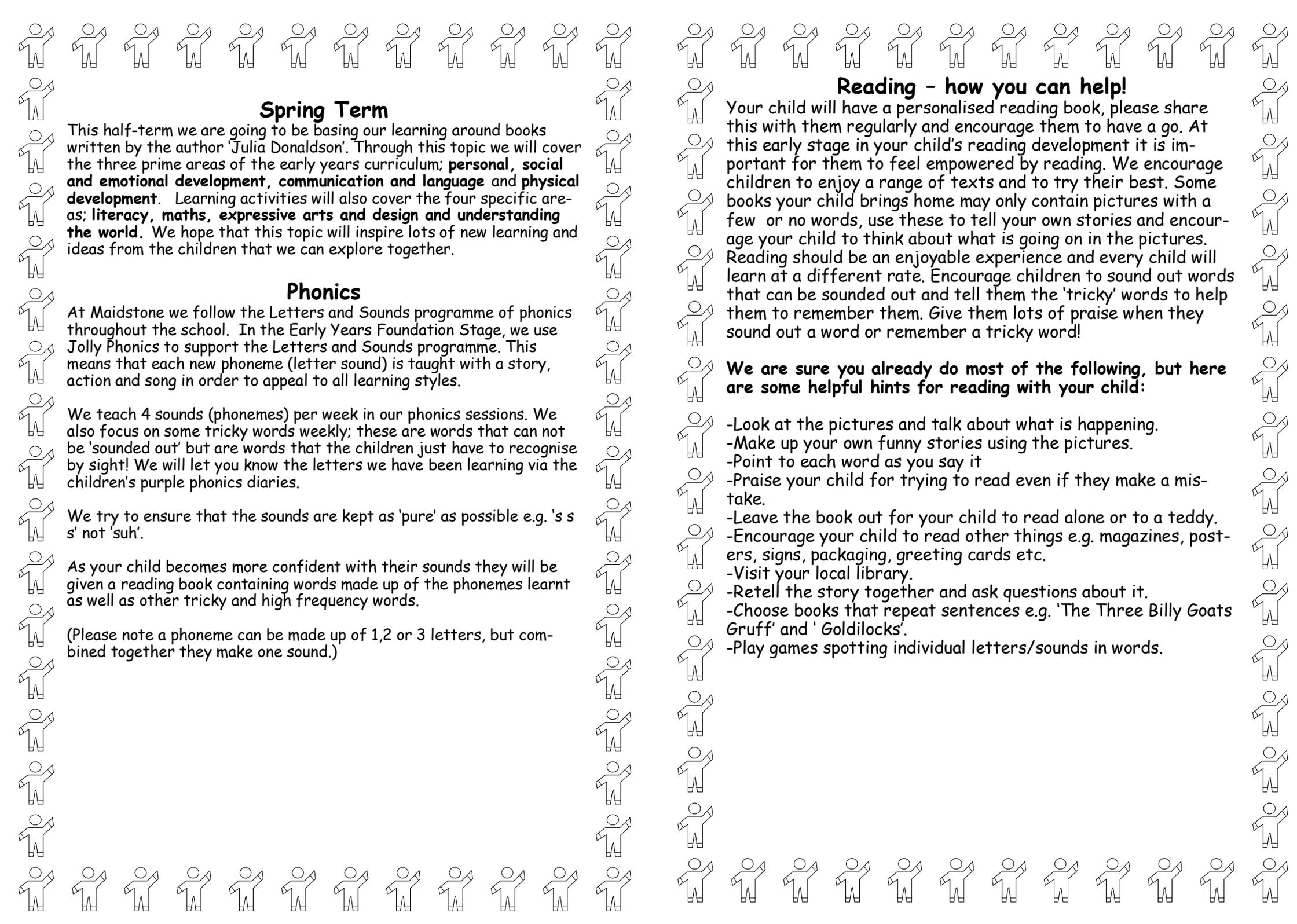
Hippo Sharing Afternoon is **Tuesday 27th March at 2.30pm**
Hippo Class Assembly is **Friday 2nd February at 2.40pm**

Maidstone Infant School and Nursery

Reception Newsletter

Spring
2018





Spring Term

This half-term we are going to be basing our learning around books written by the author 'Julia Donaldson'. Through this topic we will cover the three prime areas of the early years curriculum; **personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development**. Learning activities will also cover the four specific areas; **literacy, maths, expressive arts and design and understanding the world**. We hope that this topic will inspire lots of new learning and ideas from the children that we can explore together.

Phonics

At Maidstone we follow the Letters and Sounds programme of phonics throughout the school. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we use Jolly Phonics to support the Letters and Sounds programme. This means that each new phoneme (letter sound) is taught with a story, action and song in order to appeal to all learning styles.

We teach 4 sounds (phonemes) per week in our phonics sessions. We also focus on some tricky words weekly; these are words that can not be 'sounded out' but are words that the children just have to recognise by sight! We will let you know the letters we have been learning via the children's purple phonics diaries.

We try to ensure that the sounds are kept as 'pure' as possible e.g. 's s' not 'suh'.

As your child becomes more confident with their sounds they will be given a reading book containing words made up of the phonemes learnt as well as other tricky and high frequency words.

(Please note a phoneme can be made up of 1,2 or 3 letters, but combined together they make one sound.)

Reading - how you can help!

Your child will have a personalised reading book, please share this with them regularly and encourage them to have a go. At this early stage in your child's reading development it is important for them to feel empowered by reading. We encourage children to enjoy a range of texts and to try their best. Some books your child brings home may only contain pictures with a few or no words, use these to tell your own stories and encourage your child to think about what is going on in the pictures. Reading should be an enjoyable experience and every child will learn at a different rate. Encourage children to sound out words that can be sounded out and tell them the 'tricky' words to help them to remember them. Give them lots of praise when they sound out a word or remember a tricky word!

We are sure you already do most of the following, but here are some helpful hints for reading with your child:

- Look at the pictures and talk about what is happening.
- Make up your own funny stories using the pictures.
- Point to each word as you say it
- Praise your child for trying to read even if they make a mistake.
- Leave the book out for your child to read alone or to a teddy.
- Encourage your child to read other things e.g. magazines, posters, signs, packaging, greeting cards etc.
- Visit your local library.
- Retell the story together and ask questions about it.
- Choose books that repeat sentences e.g. 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Goldilocks'.
- Play games spotting individual letters/sounds in words.