



John Blandy Primary School

Friday April 17th, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter. The children have returned full of energy this week and it has been fantastic to see them getting stuck into their learning.

Curriculum

Please see the attached sheet which outlines our curriculum this term. It is titled 'Mini Beasts and Big Beasts'. This week we have been exploring 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and the children have been coming up with lots of ideas for their own caterpillar adventures. We will be learning about the life cycle of the caterpillar and are eagerly awaiting our own pet caterpillars that are arriving soon! After that we are moving onto bigger beasts as we explore 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. We will be linking this text to learning about taking care of ourselves and others, like Pearl in the story who wants to be a doctor. After our dragon story we are moving onto learning about dinosaurs, a topic that many of the children will surely be excited about! We hope to find out lots of facts about our favourite dinosaurs, as well as reading and writing about the book, 'If I had a dinosaur' by Alex Barrow and Gabby Dawney.

Phonics, Reading and Writing

Thank you so much for all the support you are continuing to give your children at home with their reading and phonics. Please continue to listen to your child read daily and at least 5 times per week and encourage them to become more and more confident each time they read a text. As your child's confidence with a text increases, perhaps they could read it over the phone to a family member? Or read to a sibling? As they re-read their book over the week they might not need to 'Fred Talk' every word out loud and this is great as it shows their skills developing.

In school this term, we will be really encouraging the children to develop their independent writing, working towards the writing Early Learning Goal. It would be great for the children to be challenged at home to have a go at writing for different purposes such as writing a shopping list, writing a sentence about a trip or activity or writing a simple letter or message to a friend or family member. Or maybe they want to write down their own stories with your help! Do bring in any writing done at home so that we can celebrate with your child.

Maths

It would also be fantastic to challenge your child at home to use some of their maths skills. This could be counting out items of fruit when shopping, recognising numbers on price labels, playing dice games or solving number problems e.g. *I have got 4 bananas. If I buy 2 more how many will I have?* We encourage the children to use counting objects to solve problems – at home these could be anything you have to

www.johnblandyprimary.org.uk

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hand e.g. lego blocks, raisins, stones. This week we are counting larger sets of objects (over 20) and are encouraging the children to organise them in lines and groups to help count them accurately e.g. into rows of 5 or 10. All of our maths learning links closely with the Numberblocks programmes that are all available on iPlayer so these are a great resource for the children to enjoy and learn from too. Again, do share any successes with us in school!

Suitable Clothing

The weather is still very changeable so please ensure that your child is well equipped for whatever it may bring! Warm coats are often still needed in the morning until the weather warms up! As the sun begins to shine and the temperatures increase (hopefully!) please apply sun cream if needed before school and ensure your child has a sunhat.

Reception trip

We are currently planning a trip for our Reception classes for next term. We will let you know the details of this very soon so watch this space!

Warmest regards,

The Reception Team

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