

March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the half term break and the children are feeling ready for the term ahead. I can't believe we are now half-way through the school year.

This term our topic is called 'Farm to Fork'. We will start by learning about the different animals that are found on a farm and there will be opportunities to make pictures and models of favourite farm animals. We will then learn about the seasons and what happens on a farm in each season. We will be going on a walk around the village to look for signs of Spring. Next, we will explore what can be grown on a farm and will spend time exploring flour, including how it is made and what it can be used for. We will be doing lots of cooking and learning how to be safe and hygienic in the kitchen! Finally, we will find out where different foods come from and we will have the opportunity to taste different foods. At the end of term, all families will be invited to our Maple Class Café, where the children will serve food they have cooked.

In Literacy, we will continue with Drawing Club so will focus on a different farm or food themed book each week. The children will use their own ideas to describe and draw their answer to the daily questions. Guided Reading will continue for Reception children so they can discuss stories together and practice key reading skills.

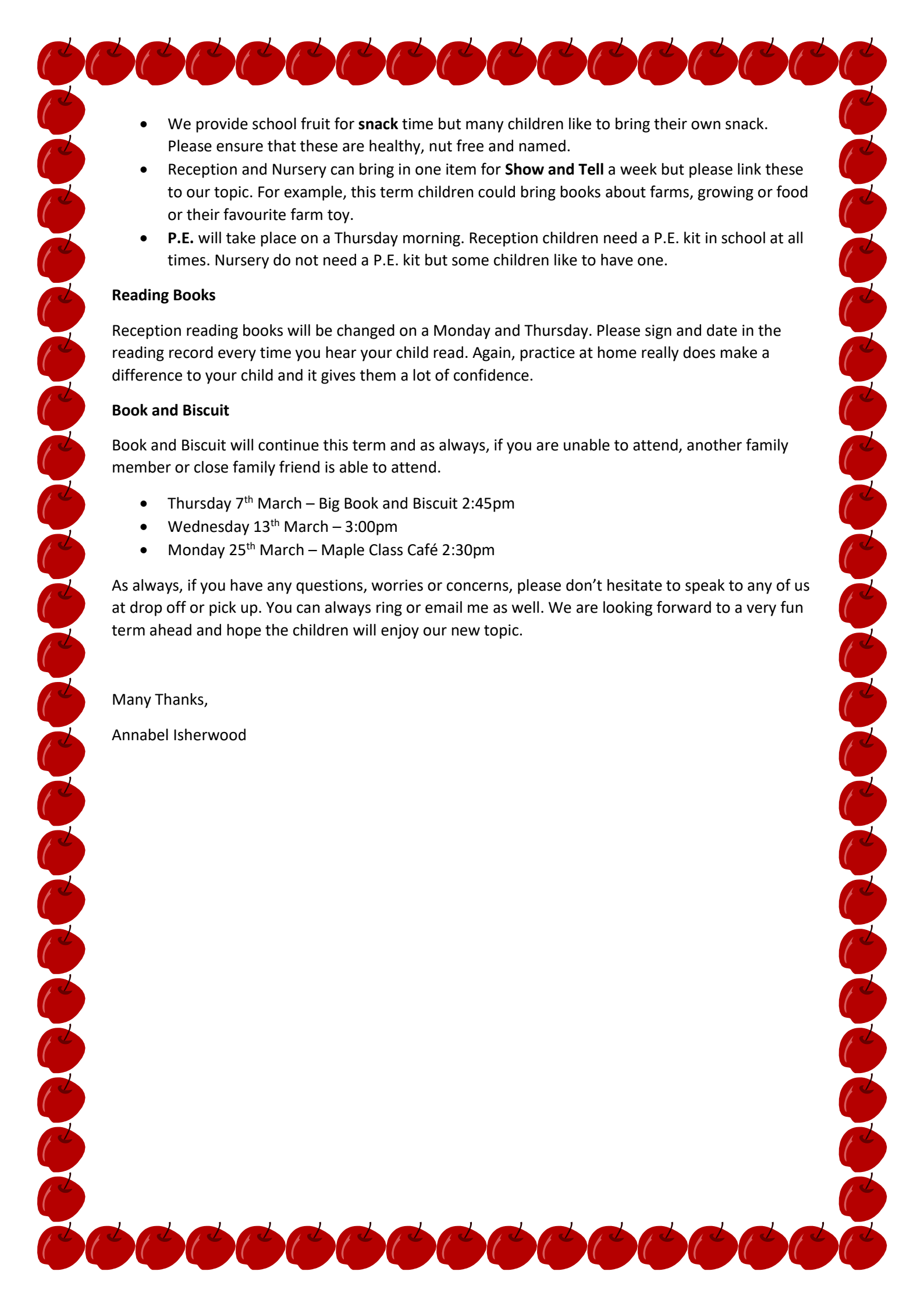
In Phonics, Reception will continue to learn a new alternative sound and new tricky words each week. Phonics will also include many opportunities to practice reading and writing skills. We will also have a big focus on handwriting so please encourage your child to form each letter correctly.

'Talking Time' will continue for Nursery children. All children will focus on listening skills by playing games, have opportunities to chat and share ideas, singing songs and listening to stories. They will be encouraged to mark make and add meaning to the marks that they are making.

In Maths, all children will explore weight and capacity by cooking different foods. Reception children will start the term by continuing their learning of number bonds to 10, including being able to recall addition and subtraction facts. They will then explore doubling and halving, before moving on to sharing. We will continue to practice counting beyond 10 so that they confident enough to explore odd and even numbers and recognise patterns in the number system. Some Nursery children will consolidate their understanding of numbers to 5 before exploring number 6 and others will focus on using numbers in their play and 1:1 correspondence when counting.

#### Useful Information:

- **Dennis**, our class bear, will be going home with a child each week. Please complete the book so your child can talk about their time with Dennis. Please email me any photos you would like printing or share them to Tapestry.
- Reception children are doing brilliantly at learning their **tricky words**. Please continue to help your child learn to read and write these by playing games at home. I know there are many to learn but they really do give the children a lot of confidence with their reading and writing.
- Reception **homework** will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday. However, if your child is too tired, they do not need to do this.
- All children need a **spare change** of clothes in school as if they have a toileting accident or fall over in the mud, they much prefer to put on their own clothes!
- All children need a **water** bottle in school with their name on.

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- We provide school fruit for **snack** time but many children like to bring their own snack. Please ensure that these are healthy, nut free and named.
  - Reception and Nursery can bring in one item for **Show and Tell** a week but please link these to our topic. For example, this term children could bring books about farms, growing or food or their favourite farm toy.
  - **P.E.** will take place on a Thursday morning. Reception children need a P.E. kit in school at all times. Nursery do not need a P.E. kit but some children like to have one.

### **Reading Books**

Reception reading books will be changed on a Monday and Thursday. Please sign and date in the reading record every time you hear your child read. Again, practice at home really does make a difference to your child and it gives them a lot of confidence.

### **Book and Biscuit**

Book and Biscuit will continue this term and as always, if you are unable to attend, another family member or close family friend is able to attend.

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Big Book and Biscuit 2:45pm
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 3:00pm
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Maple Class Café 2:30pm

As always, if you have any questions, worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to any of us at drop off or pick up. You can always ring or email me as well. We are looking forward to a very fun term ahead and hope the children will enjoy our new topic.

Many Thanks,

Annabel Isherwood