



Reception Learning Letter

April 2018 Term 5

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 5, the Spring Term. Hopefully the improved weather is a sign of good things to come. The children are certainly enjoying their learning and, as you would expect, are 'stepping up' in their readiness to move into Year One in September. A special thanks to you for supporting your child's learning by coming along to meet your child's teacher this week. We are very much here to help.

Ofsted Report for SSMJ (including Reception)

Please make sure you pick up a copy of the recent Ofsted Report for SSMJ. Although the report is, of course, mainly about Years 1-6, there are some very encouraging comments about our Reception Provision, notably:

'Children's achievement in the early years has increased well over the past three years. The proportion achieving a good level of development now exceeds the national average'

We can add: Achievement in Reception is up from 55% (2015) to 65% (2016) and 75% (2017). We expect this upward trend to continue this year.

'Leaders at Comper Foundation Stage School, in liaison with you (SSMJ), ensure that all children are safe and that safeguarding arrangements are effective and fit for purpose'

We can add: The Ofsted judgement reflects the very strong outcomes of Comper's recent safeguarding and health & safety audits.

'Children (in Reception) behave well and enjoy the attractive learning environments, both inside and outside.

We can add: The Ofsted judgement very much reflects the recently expressed, overwhelmingly positive comments from parents, about their children's learning in Reception

And an important development point:

'Leaders at Comper monitor the quality of provision...and share their findings with you at regular meetings.....However, communication about Reception children...needs to be further developed so that you and your leadership team (SSMJ) can monitor more effectively the attainment and progress of all children in Reception.'

We can add: Comper and SSMJ have a strong working partnership that has already identified the potential to further strengthen the exchange of information about children's learning. We therefore, welcome the recommendation in the report, and have already started to make improvements that will support the transition process for this year's group of children.

Copies of the report can be found at: [www.ofsted](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Our learning themes

Our learning theme this term is 'growing'. This week the children have been exploring the story of Jack and the Beanstalk using different storytelling techniques and props. In the coming weeks the children will be designing their own gardens and taking part in a range of growing activities; growing beans and other plants in the flower and vegetable gardens. We will be talking about the conditions that plants need to grow, and how we can value and take care of all living things. The highlight will inevitably be the arrival of the chicks in week 5, giving the children a very special opportunity to observe them hatching and find out about their needs. For more information please see the medium-term plan attached to this letter and available in the classrooms.



Transition to Year One

Over the next few weeks will be working closely our colleagues at Saint Mary and Saint John to review and plan our transition programme for Term 6. We will then send you a letter with details of the various activities and arrangements. If you have any questions prior to this, please speak to your child's teacher.

School Fund

We hope that parents/carers can make a weekly voluntary contribution of just £1 to our school fund. We rely on the extra funds to provide additional activities to add interest to the children's learning, such as ingredients for cooking. Any money to support these special experiences for the children is really appreciated. *It would be wonderful to raise the £125 to cover the additional costs of hatching chicks in Reception. Please, can you help us? We already have £40. Thank-you!*

Things we need

This term really need the following items:

- Trousers for girls and boys – aged 4 and above, Plant pots for our garden centre role play in the garden.
- Seeds, plants and compost



Any donated items will be gratefully received!

As the weather gets warmer please make sure your child has a sunhat and sun cream to protect them

Dates for your diary-

Comper cake stalls for Term 5– **This Friday 27th** and Friday 11 May

Monday 7th May – School closed for the Bank holiday

Last day of Summer Term 5 – Friday 25th May

Monday 4th June – INSET day whole school closed for staff training

First day of Summer Term 6 - Tuesday 5th June



Many thanks for all your interest and support,

Best wishes from Chris, Chrissy Gower and the Reception Team

