

# Reception Newsletter

## Miss Lock and Miss Cartwright

### April - May 2026

#### Welcome back!

We hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. We have been very pleased to welcome the children back and are incredibly proud of how quickly they have settled back into our school routines. They have returned with such positive attitudes to learning and we are excited to continue supporting their growing independence as they prepare for their transition into Year 1.

Last half term, the children thoroughly enjoyed learning about space and what lies beyond the clouds, as well as beginning to explore what we can see here on Earth. This has provided a great foundation for our learning this half term, where we will focus on life on Earth, including farm animals, how plants grow and what living things need to stay healthy.



This half term, our topic is '**Down on the Farm**'. The children will learn about different animals that live on farms and begin to understand how they are cared for. We will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to farm life to help develop their knowledge and vocabulary.

As part of our learning, we will be welcoming chicken eggs into the classroom. The children will observe the life cycle of chicks as they hatch and grow, providing a real-life and exciting learning experience.

Later in the half term, we will be visiting Hesketh Farm, where the children will have the opportunity to see and learn about a variety of farm animals while taking part in a range of exciting activities. They will help to prepare and feed milk to lambs, enjoy a tractor ride with Farmer Chris and take part in a paddock walk to learn about animals and their homes. The children will also collect and count eggs, explore what is inside an egg and handle baby chicks.

The children will also take part in a range of creative and practical activities, including role play, small world play, planting and exploring outdoor environments, helping to bring the topic to life.

Although Summer is on the way, the weather is still unpredictable, and it is important the children bring a coat every day as we will be accessing the outside areas throughout the day. It is very important your children are now dressing and undressing themselves each day, so they reach the required level to gain their end of year Early Learning Goal for Managing Self.

#### Reading & Phonics:

The children will continue to follow the Read, Write, Inc Phonics scheme. As well as learning new sounds, they will recap the sounds they have already learnt to become confident when blending them together to read words.

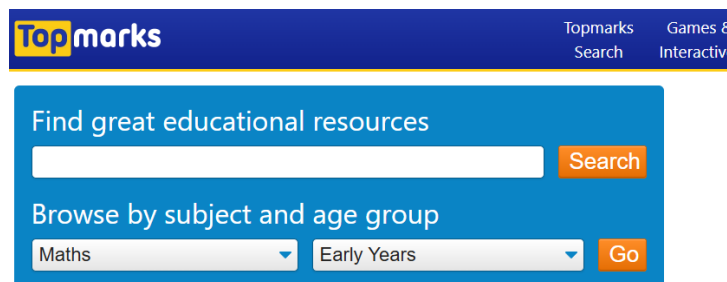
This half term, we will continue using the Talk for Writing approach to support the children's early speaking and writing development. Talk for Writing helps children to become confident writers by listening to, learning and retelling texts aloud using actions, repetition and clear story patterns.

We will begin by exploring a non-fiction text, *Egg to Chicken*, to learn about the life cycle of a chicken and what happens at each stage. Following our farm visit, the children will then use their experiences to write their own recounts.

### Maths:

In Maths, the children will consolidate their counting skills by counting to larger numbers and developing a wider range of counting strategies. They will continue to count larger sets, as well as actions and sounds, helping to deepen their understanding of number. The children will explore different ways to represent numbers, including using 10-frames and beginning to understand doubles. They will also compare quantities and numbers, including groups with different attributes, and develop a stronger sense of magnitude, for example recognising that 8 is much more than 2, whereas 4 is only a little more than 2. Through varied practice, they will continue to secure their knowledge of number facts.

You may find this website helpful for practising maths with your child at home: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>



At Little London we use Tapestry and Class Dojo to share your child's learning with you. We also post some helpful videos and messages that will support your child with their learning at home. Don't forget to 'like' the posts we share with you to help us see you have read it!

Please can we remind you to log into these apps regularly to keep up to date with what your child is doing at school. If you need any support doing this, please speak to your class teacher.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to talk to us at the end of the day or get in touch by phone or email.

***Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing your child continue to flourish at Little London Academy.***

Many thanks,

Reception Team

### Important Dates:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Children return to school  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Trip to Hesketh Farm  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday – no school  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Children break up for May half term



### You can help by:

Reading with your child each day, as well as asking questions about the book, the Five Finger Retell questions below will help you with this. Please also make use of our class libraries and use the questions below to talk about the stories. It's a good idea to read the story more than once to give your child a greater understanding of what is happening and to introduce them to any new vocabulary.

Talking with your child as you walk to and from school and visit places, this will help them to speak in full sentences and use the past, present and future tenses correctly.