



# The Pegasus Academy Trust

## Reception Newsletter: Spring 1, 2018

**W**elcome back and a Happy New Year to all of our families! We are delighted at how well the children have settled back into their reception classes and are ready and raring to learn. Our theme this half term is 'Monsters' and is entitled, 'Watch out—there's a monster about!' Through this topic, the children will be engaging in an array of practical expressive arts and Design Technology-style activities, accompanied by opportunities to develop both their spoken and written English.

**Communication, Language and Literacy:** In their literacy work, the children will focus on developing an understanding of story structure (beginning, middle and end) through reading stories about fictional monsters such as *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson and *Bog Baby* by Jean Willis & Gwen Millward. The children will also be learning to read and spell common 'tricky' words (E.g. *the, to, you, was*); writing for different purposes (e.g. lists, letters, instructions and stories); using descriptive language and retelling stories by creating their own versions of familiar narratives.

**Maths:** This term the children will be learning how to find one 'more' and one 'less' of a given number from 0-20, using what they already know about the sequence of these digits to justify their answers. Moving through the term, pupils will be learning how to add two small numbers together using everyday objects. The children will also be developing their understanding of weight (*light/heavy/heavier/lighter/heaviest/lightest*), making estimations when measuring different masses. To round off the term, the children will explore the world of three-dimensional shapes, their properties and where they can be found in the environment. Please support your child at home by playing games which involve using dice, number cards or number lines. Look for opportunities, such as laying the table for dinner to encourage your child to count out objects and compare groups of objects when they are helping you around the home.

**Understanding the World:** As part of this term's topic theme, the children will be learning all about healthy eating—most specifically the different food groups which help all of our bodies to grow strong and healthy. Equally important will be the learning that the children do over the coming weeks in 'Getting along and falling out' as well as how to show tolerance, treating others with respect and kindness.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** In expressive arts and design, the children will learn how to use a variety of materials and writing tools to make designs for their very own 3D model of a fictional monster! They will then make the monster, learning how materials can be changed by cutting, joining and decorating them. The children will also take part in music activities that will help them to practise and make up their own rhythms, using instruments to play them. Their newly learnt skills will then be used to compose their own monster 'roars' so as to bring their monster model to life!

**Physical Development:** In our PE lessons the children will continue to develop travelling and balancing skills as well as carry on their work on spatial awareness. Children will be thinking about how exercise helps us to be healthy and talking about other ways in which we all look after our bodies (*such as eating healthily, brushing our teeth etc.*). It is important that your child has a PE kit in school each and every day. This should consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts and black plimsolls, all of which should be labelled. Please check that your child has their own clothes and return any that do not belong to them. We have free-flow access to our outside classrooms during the day, so please ensure that your child comes armed with the appropriate clothing and is prepared for all weathers!

**Trips and events:** On **Wednesday 24th January**, we will be visited by 'Professor Bubbleworks' and taking part in a fun-filled workshop called 'Alien Slime', which will seek to support the children's developing understanding of materials in Science. To celebrate the end of their 'Watch out—there's a monster about!' theme, the children will be holding their own exhibition of 3D work and writing at the beginning and end of the school day on **Friday 2nd February** for families to come in and celebrate. Make sure you don't miss out!

**WOW moments:** Our WOW boards are looking a little sparse. Please help fill them by keeping your child's WOW moments comments coming in. We love to read them and celebrate your child's achievements. These 'Wow Moments' can tell us about anything of interest that you would like to share with us. For example, the first time they tie their shoelaces, dress and undress themselves independently, how they built a tall Lego tower, and many more besides! Please use the slips attached to this newsletter. If you prefer, please speak to your child's class teacher who will happily record the WOW moment on your behalf.

### The Reception Team

Miss Hawkins  
**Willow Class Teacher**

Ms. Hughes & Ms. Netty  
**Willow Teaching Assistants**

**Don't forget to check the website at: [www.pegasusacademytrust.org](http://www.pegasusacademytrust.org)**

**WOW Moments Template**  
(Please cut into individual slips)



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