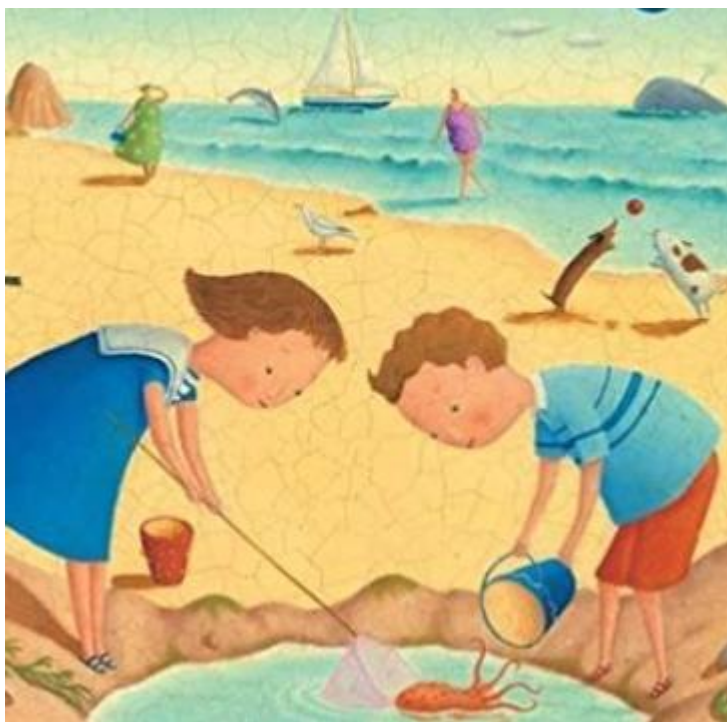


Dear Parents and Carers,

**Welcome to Springfield Academy!** It is so lovely to teach your children every day and I can't wait to see all the exploring adventures we will go on throughout their Reception year.

At Springfield Academy, we want all of our children to learn to read and enjoy books as we believe this is the key to opening many doors for them. In order to give your child the best chance in achieving this, we would appreciate if you could spend some time sharing stories with them at home. Initially, children will be sent home with a picture book to encourage talk and imagination. The idea is that you look through the story together and talk about the pictures, telling your own story as you move through the book. Here are some examples of how you can talk about the pictures with your child:



**You could:**

**Retell a story**

"One summer's day, a little boy called Ben and a little girl called Lucy went to the beach in Skegness..."

"Wow! I can't believe my eyes! A blue whale in the distance and a friendly dolphin showing off their jumping tricks."

Or:

**Describe/talk about the pictures**

"Look, here they have caught a red, spotty octopus. What do you know about an octopus?" (They might say they have 8 tentacles so you could practice some counting and think about how many are missing).

"What game do you think the dogs are playing?"

"I wonder where the boat is sailing to. Where would you sail to if you could go anywhere in the world?"

I hope you will enjoy sharing stories with your child. It is a chance to share a cuddle and engross yourselves in an imaginary world where anything is possible! Please do ask if you have any question or would like further support in how to share stories with your child at home.

Happy reading!

Mrs McConnell, Mrs Doyle and Miss Street

*Reception Team*