



After a long and successful Autumn term, here is an overview of the children's learning for the forthcoming spring term. The emphasis during this half term is on consolidating social interaction, co-operation and managing routines and behavioural expectations. Our main topics will be travel, transport and dinosaurs, although we allow for variation in response to the children's interests.

### Literacy

#### 1. Communication and Language

The children will use language to recreate roles and experiences; use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events; attempt to sustain attentive listening and respond to what they have heard by relevant comments, questions or actions. The children will take part in activities such as role-play, presenting their science/mystery bags, contributing to our topic discussions, listening to each other and stories read by the teacher.

#### 2. Phonics

The children will continue with our Little Wandle phonics scheme. We continually revise the sounds from last term and will continue to learn new digraphs and trigraphs, where two/ three letters together make one sound, e.g. sh, ee, igh etc. These are posted online to the Google Classroom when a new one is covered in school. We will continue to work on the recognition of sounds and practise segmenting and blending words in the context of reading and writing.

#### 3. Reading

The children will be responding to a wide variety of stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction texts. We will be reinforcing the difference between words and letters and that, in English, writing is read from left to right and top to bottom. We emphasise finger pointing to help make the connection that the spoken words correspond to written words. We will continue to learn to recognise high frequency and 'tricky' words (commonly used words that are phonically irregular) e.g. 'the', 'you'.

We will continue to collect in Reading Records and any Phonics scheme books on a **MONDAY**. Phonics scheme books will then be sent home each **TUESDAY** and your child may choose an additional free choice book from the class library.

**It is very helpful for us to know how your child approaches phonics and reading at home. Please use the Reading Record to inform us of their progress or any difficulties that your child may be experiencing.**

#### 4. Writing

The children will be encouraged to hold a pencil effectively, using the tripod grip, to draw pictures and form recognisable letters. They will be continuing to learn to write letters using the Little Wandle letter formations (see Google Classroom). The children will be writing in a variety of contexts and for a range of purposes e.g. letters, cards, messages, postcards, list writing etc. We will be encouraging them to apply their segmenting and blending skills to write words and include finger spaces. We will also be using capital letters (for names and to begin sentences) and full stops.



### Mathematics

The children will continue to build on their number knowledge throughout the spring term by learning about representations of numbers, the composition of numbers (e.g. 3 and 2 are a part of 5), the concept of zero, and understand the value of numbers by ordering and comparing them. We will be identifying numerals 0-10 and where appropriate beyond. The children will be consolidating and learning the vocabulary of addition and subtraction, e.g. altogether, one more, one less, take away, count on and count back and developing their understanding of which numbers can combine to make another number e.g. '5 and 3 more is 8, or  $4 + 4 = 8$ '. They will play games, board games and use practical apparatus and toys to combine sets and count all the objects, take away and find out how many are left. The children will investigate 2 and 3 dimensional shapes as well as develop their spatial awareness. They will learn more about mass, capacity, length and height and will use the language most, fewest, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter etc.

## Understanding the world

### Around the World

In the first half of the Spring term, the children learn about how and why we travel the world. They locate places on a map, starting from the UK, and explore travelling there. They compare different climates to their own, contrast the physical features of different climates and learn about landmarks. Children also learn about customs and cultures of different cultures. E.g: languages, food, stories, indigenous people and their ways of life. They go on to learn about how animals and people have adapted to live there. Finally, they learn about looking after and caring for the world. The children will also learn about a number of different festivals from around the world such as Lunar New Year and Holi.

### Dinosaurs

In the second half of the Spring term, the children will be learning about dinosaurs and their habitats. They will be looking at timelines and will find out about the discovery of dinosaurs and significant palaeontologists. They will learn about evolution and find out about famous scientists such as Charles Darwin and Mary Leakey. They will continue to learn about different festivals, including Mother's Day and Easter.

## PE

The children will continue to come into school in their PE kit on a **Monday** and **Friday** for their PE sessions. Our learning will involve travelling, balancing, co-ordination and ball skills, co-operation / group games and moving in response to music.

## Expressive arts and design

The children will continue to express themselves creatively, using a range of media inside and outside the classrooms. We will also focus on sculpture and collage techniques and develop these skills further. The children will continue to develop their singing skills and this term we will have the opportunity to play a variety of simple un-tuned percussion instruments.

## PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)

This term, we continue to encourage the children to become increasingly independent and confident. We will be reinforcing our living values of love and cooperation and introducing our new values of respect and simplicity. The children will be attending weekly Living Value assemblies, lead by Mrs O'Brien. There will also be an emphasis on using good manners and caring for each other and our environment, particularly looking after resources in the classroom and taking turns. We will be trying to describe, understand and manage our feelings e.g. happiness, anger, fright etc. using the Zones of Regulation.

## How you can help at home

- Ensure that your child can put on and do up their coat and can dress and undress themselves, including buttoning, fastening their shoes and turning their clothes the correct way round, keeping their clothes neatly in one area (this will help us when we start swimming in the summer). Please ensure that all of the children's clothes are labelled – this helps us enormously!
- Encourage general drawing and colouring to develop fine motor skills and practise the Little Wandle letter formation in fun ways (eg. Using chunky chalk, chalk pens on the window, writing in sand/flour, writing in the condensation on a shower wall).
- Encourage opportunities for children to write for a purpose, e.g. writing birthday cards and helping to write shopping lists.
- Regularly revisit the phonics posted online. You could also try giving the children tasks around the house by segmenting and blending the words instead of saying the whole word e.g. "Go and put on your c-oa-t..."
- Practise subitising (recognising amounts on sight) and counting accurately – include random groups/bundles, 2 groups together - touching everything only once, and counting by hearing/counting actions! Recite numbers forward and backwards from 0-10 and 10-0.
- When reading together, talk about the story's plot and the character's feelings. Make predictions about the text and conduct research together if you have any questions.

### **Diary dates**

- Senior Leadership Online Presentation: School based advice; parenting in the modern world - 24<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm
  - Science at Sheen Mount Presentation – 25<sup>th</sup> January 9-10.30am
  - Sharing Our Learning – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2.30pm
  - Parent Consultations – 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29th February
- Class Assemblies
- 25th April - Dormice
  - 2nd May – Rabbits
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Squirrels

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Reception Team

**Dormice class:** Avani Bakrania-Ashton and Kate Jeffery (Class Teachers and EYFS Phase Leaders)

Jade Hartland (Class TA)

Jane McCabe and Lusy Marano (1:1 TAs)

**Rabbits class:** Georgina Kennedy and Natasa Bojkovic (Class Teacher)

Tanya Douglas (Class TA)

Charlotte Hillier (1:1 TA)

**Squirrels class:** Saskia Hayes (Class Teacher)

Natasha Shah and Emma Crabb (Class TA)

Lusy Marano (1:1 TA)