



Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely break and a good start to the year. The children have made a gentle start to the spring term and are ready for more fantastic learning. Here is an overview of the children's learning for the whole of the spring term. The focus will be on consolidating social interaction, co-operation and managing routines and behavioural expectations, as well building on children's reading, writing and maths understanding and skills. Our main topics will be 'toys' and 'space', although there is variation in response to the children's interests.

Communication and Language

Speaking and Listening

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.

Literacy

1. Phonics

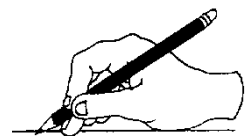
The children will continue with our phonics scheme. We will continue to revise the sounds from last term and will learn new digraphs and trigraphs, where two/ three letters together make one sound, e.g. sh, ee, igh etc. These are posted online to the Google Classroom every Monday and a sheet is put in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

2. 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 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 as their sharing book. **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.**

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 words and learning to write short captions. They will write 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 introduce 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 they will understand the value of numbers by ordering and comparing them. They 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 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 special

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

Toys

The children will develop their understanding of the past by first thinking about personal events in their memory and by exploring a timeline. They will understand that someone's age is the time since they were born. They will learn about the past and present and how toys have changed. The children will explore how children played in the past, looking at toys and games. They will compare photos of the past and present and make observations and comparisons and explore making their own toys. The children will also learn about a number of different festivals from around the world such as Lunar New Year and Holi.

Space

The children will explore what they can see, hear and feel in the night sky and link this to space. They will learn about the sun, moon, stars and planets, looking at similarities and differences. They will explore the job of an astronaut, look at key figures in space exploration, and find out what life might be like on the ISS. The children learn about space exploration in the past and design and make their own rockets. They will continue to learn about different festivals, including Mother's Day and Easter.

The Natural World

The children will continue to explore seasons and seasonal changes, as well as develop their knowledge of different processes. They will make observations, comparisons and predictions.

Physical

Fine motor skills:

The children will continue to develop their skills through a variety of activities in our continuous provision. They will continue to mark make, and use a range of tools, such as scissors, correctly and safely.

Gross motor skills/PE

The children will continue to develop control over their movements and make use of our classroom environment outdoors. They will continue to come into school in their PE kit on a **Tuesday** 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 focus on observational drawing, printing, joining to make toys, and models of space rockets and painting. 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. They will also listen to music and link this to their feelings and art work.

PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)

This term, we continue to encourage the children to become increasingly independent and confident. We will focus on the topic of 'Building Relationships' and explore special relationships in our lives and how they are valuable. We will also look at 'Self-Regulation' and developing our listening skills. We will be trying to describe, understand and manage our feelings e.g. happiness, anger, fright etc. using the story of the Colour Monster. We will continue to reinforce our living values of cooperation and love, and introducing our new values of respect and simplicity. 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.

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 (e.g. 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 forwards 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

- Parent Consultations: Monday 3rd, Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th March
- Sharing Our Learning: Friday 28th February 2.30 – 3pm
- Spring Concert: Friday 28th March 2:30pm

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

The Reception Team

Dormice Class

Mrs Bakrania-Ashton (Class Teacher), Mrs Jeffery (Class Teacher), Miss Charlotte, Mrs Pascual-Martin, Mrs Harper (Teaching Assistants)

Rabbits Class

Miss Kennedy (Class Teacher), Mrs Bojkovoc (Class Teacher), Mrs Mohseni-Pour (Teaching Assistant)

Squirrels Class

Mrs Hayes (Class Teacher), Mrs Shah, Mrs Leutchens, Mrs Donnelly (Teaching Assistants)