



After a successful Spring Term, we are ready for another busy term, full of fun-packed learning! We are starting this term with our topic, 'All Around the World', and then moving on to 'Life in the Undergrowth'.

Literacy

Speaking and Listening

The children will further develop their use and understanding of language. They will continue to recreate roles and experiences and use talk to organise, sequence and clarify ideas, feelings and events; speaking in full sentences, with clarity and confidence. In particular, the children will focus on sustained, attentive listening and responding to what is heard by making relevant comments, asking questions or repeating back what others have said. In Summer 1, the children will have opportunities to talk about places around the world, and across the term, the children will continue to have speaking opportunities when children share their science / mystery bag with the class and share their learning during Celebration Assembly.

Phonics and Writing

This term, the children will be revising all the letters and sounds we have taught. The children will be moving on to reading and writing these within the context of cvcc (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant sound e.g. shift, hump) and ccvc (consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant sound e.g. bring, skip) words, as well as compound/ polysyllabic words e.g. sandpit, children. The children will also continue to reinforce recognition of **tricky words** and build up knowledge of the spelling of commonly used words, as well as attempting to spell words, using knowledge of phonics. The children will be working on beginning sentences and names using a capital letter and putting a full stop at the end of a sentence. The children will also focus on including finger spaces between words. In addition, the children will be encouraged to use some descriptive words in their writing/ oral storytelling e.g. 'The black and white panda has sharp claws'.

Reading

The children will continue to respond to a wide variety of stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction texts. We will continue to collect Reading Records and any Phonics scheme books on 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. This term, the children will be reinforcing the tricky words (those that cannot be sounded out using common phonics rules); sight recognition of this will greatly develop reading fluency. The children will also be focusing on comprehension skills such as retelling a story and answering questions about what the children have read. We would like you to continue working on recognising these at home. It is also important that the children regularly revise recognition of the individual phonemes, digraphs and trigraphs at home. We have really appreciated your comments in the home/school reading diary about your children's successes/ attitude/ difficulties/ strategies when reading. Please continue to keep us informed about learning at home. Please also see the Reception Google Classroom for more resources on Phonics.

Handwriting

The children will be encouraged to hold a pencil effectively to draw pictures and form recognisable letters. They will continue to practise correct letter and number formation in class and it is useful if you give them opportunities to practise this at home too. Please see the Google Classroom for letter formation sheets to practise.

Maths

Number

In the first part of the term, the children will continue to secure their understanding of the numbers to 10, looking at composition. The children will continue to work on counting above 10 and past 20. They will be completing activities that involve ordering and comparing numbers, finding doubles and halves, sharing and grouping, and addition and subtraction. The children will continue to use the vocabulary of addition and subtraction e.g. altogether, plus, one more, two more etc., one less, take away, count on and count back. They will play games, board games, and use practical apparatus such as a rekenrek, and toys to combine sets and count all the objects, take away and find out how many are left. They will be investigating ways of recording their answers. The children will be solving everyday problems using addition and subtraction. They will also be learning about grouping and sharing.

Shape, Maps and Reasoning

The children will also continue to recognise and name 3 dimensional and 2 dimensional shapes and identify them within the environment. They will make repeated patterns with shapes and other objects and develop their ability to follow pictorial and written instructions. The children will be investigating simple symmetry and a variety of positional and directional language. This will help when learning about maps, where children will be asked to follow, create and make maps.

Understanding the World

All Around the World

The children start by learning about how people travel and why. They will learn about different countries and continents using a world map and learn about the country they live in. They will learn about similarities and differences between life in this country and that of other places like Egypt, China and Antarctica (places may be subject to change). They will explore and contrast the climate and the physical features of different places and learn about landmarks. Children further learn about customs and traditions in different cultures, exploring languages, food, stories, and indigenous people and their ways of life. They also learn about looking after and caring for the world. The children will discuss and celebrate different festivals and traditions, seasonal changes and begin to talk about change and growing up, in relation to the move to Year 1.

Life in the Undergrowth

The children will be learning about the difference between living and non-living matter, finding out about a range of animals and plants and their life cycles. The children will learn about the importance of caring for living things and the environment. They will be developing their skills of observation and description in talking about similarities and differences. Through exploration in the outdoor area, the children will learn about forces, sound and properties of materials, as well as developing their skills of prediction, observation and problem solving.

Personal Social Emotional Development

This term, the children will continue to be encouraged to be independent and to take responsibility for their possessions and actions. The children will continue to reinforce the use of good manners and to engender an ethos of caring and sharing, being polite and showing respect for others' ideas and cultures. In Summer 1, the children will focus on 'Building Relationships', exploring diversity and different festivals and cultures. In Summer 2, the children will be looking at 'Managing Self' and how to take on challenges. The children will be attending weekly Living Values assemblies, led by Mrs O'Brien, focusing on 'honesty' and 'freedom'. They will be trying to describe, understand and manage our feelings e.g. happiness, anger, fright etc. using the Colour Monster/Zones of Regulation. The children will also be preparing the children for entry into Year 1.

Expressive Arts and Design

Art/DT

The children will develop their DT and food making skills when exploring food and they will continue to use their skills of cutting, gluing and sticking, as well as practising assembling and joining skills when making models from junk. The children will continue working with a range of media. We will be encouraging them to look closely at a range of artefacts/ living things and they will be making close observational drawings and paintings. They will also be exploring texture in the environment and doing printing. The children will look at the work of a range of artists and discuss our responses to them. They will be developing their collage skills, creating transient art pictures using different materials and they will be exploring sculpting skills.

Music

The children will continue to learn new songs. They will also be listening to a wide variety of music and making personal responses, through talk and expressions, such as dance. The children will be exploring musical instruments and experimenting with making different sounds.

Physical Development

Our main learning will involve balancing and an introduction to athletics. For the first half of the Summer term, the children will continue to have their swimming lessons. The children will also be developing their skills in preparation for Sports Day. In the outside area, the children have continual access to a range of physical equipment and we are encouraging them to make up their own games, exploring a range of this equipment. The children will also be starting Forest School lessons in Summer 2 and we will send you more information closer to the time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- 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...”
- 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.
- 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.
- Check Google classroom for resources.

Diary dates:

- 7th May - Dormice Class Assembly
- 21st May – Squirrels Class Assembly
- 18th June – Rabbits Class Assembly
- 3rd July - Sports Day
- 9th July - Nower Wood Trip

Thank you so much for all your continued support. We hope you find this information useful and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,
The Reception Team

Dormice Class

Mrs Bakrania-Ashton (Class teacher), Mrs Nesbitt (Class teacher), Mrs Shah, Mrs Leutchens, Mrs Marano, Ms Hartland (Teaching Assistants)

Rabbits Class

Miss Kennedy (Class teacher), Mrs Bojkovic (Class teacher), Mrs Mohseni-Pour, Mrs Donnelly (Teaching Assistants)

Squirrels Class

Mrs Hayes (Class teacher), Mrs Naska (Teaching Assistant)