

I wonder...

Foundation Stage
Spring Term 2020

Welcome:

Welcome back to a new term in Foundation Stage. The children have made special friends within the class and have built strong relationships with the adults in school.

This term routines will change slightly as the children will be attending collective worship twice a week, building up to daily as soon as they are ready. The morning routine will now include; dough disco/squiggle while we wiggle, registration, phonics, adult focus, collective worship, independent learning time, shared reading followed by lunchtime. The afternoon routine will be very similar to last term and include registration, adult focus, independent learning time, story/songs, home.

Your child's learning will continue to be based on the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and be delivered through a theme based approach. Class R had a discussion before the holiday about what they would like to learn and it was decided that our theme for term 3 and 4 will be 'I wonder...'. The children had many really interesting questions about how things work. We now have a Science lab in our classroom as a role-play area.

Communication and Language/ Literacy: We will continue to provide opportunities for children to develop their speaking and listening skills, and build on their knowledge of phonics; recapping phase two and working within phase three. The children will continue to bring home reading books appropriate to their stage of development to read with you at home. Can we please remind you that you can use the book in many ways retelling, asking questions about characters and setting. Use the story in role play, draw pictures and write about what happened at the beginning/ middle / end of the story. Books will be changed at least once, sometimes twice a week. We will read with your child at school as much as possible so please ensure that their book bag is in school daily.

New letters that have been learnt will be set home to learn through games and activities as well as four keywords at a time that your child needs to learn from memory.

We will continue to model writing daily; it will benefit the children to see writing at home so they understand we write for a variety of purposes. They should be encouraged to use their knowledge of letters and sounds when writing labels, lists, letters, plans, stories and other forms of writing. During the morning quiggle session the children will at first be

engaging in handwriting patterns before moving on to specifically how to forming cursive letters correctly. We will continue to provide opportunities for them to use their fine motor and gross motor skills such as using Lego, play dough, threading, climbing, pulling/pushing during independent learning time and physical sessions.

Physical Development: Children will continue to enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities using the bikes, stilts, balls. We are developing our loose parts resources and these are a great resources for developing core and upper body strength. Some of the resources can be weighty and may even require two or three children to move as a team! Indoors we provide a range of tools and activities to develop fine motor skills. Tuesday is a structured hall session. The children are now changing for P.E. Please ensure they have shorts and T-Shirt in school to change into for these sessions. Please encouraged them to dress at home independently. Please continue to label all the children's belongings to help us find and return any missing items of clothing.

Maths: During terms 3 and 4 the children will continue to practise reciting the number names in order, counting sets of objects, becoming familiar with the vocabulary used to compare numbers, adding/subtracting small numbers in practical activities and learning the properties of some 2-d and 3-d shapes. The children are also learning to recognise 2-digit numbers and to write numerals using the correct formation. The children will continue to practise adding and will be introduced to subtraction.

At home the children should be encouraged to count daily touching/moving each object as they count. The children should be counting on from various different numbers and using different methods of counting/ adding and subtracting. The children should be using and hearing different language for more less such as greater, larger, smaller, fewer.

Understanding the World / Expressive Arts and Design:

Within these areas the children will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of certain aspects of Science, History, Geography, Art, Music and ICT. Our theme will be science lead. Our 'I wonder...' theme will fist give us opportunities to explore different Scientific concepts such as light and dark/ floating and sinking as well as changes to properties including water. The children have many questions about the world such as 'How are volcanoes made?'. We will learn about Chinese New Year. It will enable us to learn how different cultures celebrate. We will learn about

traditional Chinese Music and look at colour and movement, including Chinese dragon dance.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Independent Learning is a time when children demonstrate and learn Personal, social and emotional skills. It enables the children to work independently at these skills and be supported with by adults with social situations. It allows the children to explore friendship and conflict, both important life skills. It is a time where they have the opportunity to work through possible differing ideas and opinions, finding a compromise so they can move on with their play. Circle Time sessions allow us to approach certain areas to be celebrated or discussed that arise during the week.

RE: We will learn about why Christians celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Mothering Sunday, and Easter, as well as learning about the Bible stories of 'Noah's Ark' and 'Daniel and the Lions Den'.

Snack/lunch: The children still access snack independently during the morning session. Please ensure that all children have a named water bottle in school everyday. Children enjoy the fruit that is available at snack time. Please can I remind you that lunch boxes should contain a healthy balanced meal.

Morning Routine: Please ensure that your child is at school for the start of the school day at 8.40am. It can be difficult for the children to join in after the day has already begun.

Please do contact us if you have any questions, queries or concerns. We are very happy to help in any way.

Many Thanks,

Miss Zimmerman