



Class 1 & 2 Newsletter

Welcome Back

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a lovely Christmas.

Class 1 and 2 have an exciting new topic called; 'All Creatures Great and Small'. We shall look at Wild Animals, Domestic Pets and Farm animals and learn to classify them according to various criteria. During this topic we will be identifying similarities and differences between them and their various habitats. They will also have fun learning all about Dinosaurs. We will use the skills of fact finding to research this topic and will as a result be distinguishing between fiction and nonfiction texts. After Half Term our topic will be; 'How Does your Garden Grow?' During this second topic we look at plants and spend time weeding, digging and planting seeds in our garden and then watch as they grow during the summer term. Any seeds or plants are always greatly appreciated.

For each of the 6 areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum we have outlined below the skills we shall be focusing on throughout these topics.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This term we will pay particular attention to forming good relationships, being sensitive to others needs, feelings and views and gaining the confidence to try new activities and initiate ideas.

Communication Language & Literacy

We will continue exploring the meaning of new words and use our phonic knowledge to read and write common words and simple sentences independently. We will focus on correct formation of our letters during handwriting. During the topics we shall be examining how information can be found in non-fiction texts. Throughout the term we will be responding to songs, music, rhymes and poems and also making up our own.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

We will be using coins, tallying, measuring and using numbers to 20 and beyond. We will also be using more mathematical language such as wide, wider, widest and tall, taller, tallest. We will also be solving practical problems using basic addition and subtraction skills which we shall be learning this term. The children will be set fun maths challenges to complete at home.

Knowledge & Understanding of the World

Our topics of 'All Creatures Great and Small' and 'How does your Garden Grow?' will allow us to explore living things and recognise changes in both animals and plants.

Physical Development

We will be moving our bodies around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment and recognising the importance of keeping healthy and those things which contribute to this. We will be using scissors and malleable materials with more control. In Foundation we have a flexible approach to P.E and the children need their P.E kits at all times. A pair of tracksuit bottoms would be useful and again please ensure ALL clothing is named.



Creative Development

We shall learn the new skill of papier mache this term, and be applying our knowledge to create a dinosaur habitat and a mysterious dinosaur egg!! We will also be playing with sounds, repeating patterns of sounds and changing sounds and expressing ideas, thoughts and feelings through a wide range of materials and role play.

Reading

We would like to begin by thanking you for all your hard work helping the children with their sound sheets, which shall be continuing this term. We shall be continuing to learn more sounds this term and then use these sounds and ones we have learnt last term to read and spell words. From time to time your child will bring home a **Tricky Words** list. These words *try to trick* you! It will always be possible to sound out part of these words (e.g. said - s & d). Please help your child to see the *tricky bit* and practise recognising the word.

Children will continue to choose a different story book each week. You may like to read this story with your child. It is not the intention for children to read these to you. The reading books intended for the children to read to you are the colour labelled books.

Show & Tell

Show and Tell is a valuable part of the curriculum because it gives children the opportunity to share significant experiences with their peers. It also helps with the development of their communication, literacy and language skills. Both classes really enjoy our Show and Tell time every day. When helping your child decide what to bring in please try to choose something that will be of interest to the class and stimulate lots of discussion and a link to the topic is always welcome. Children should not be bringing in toys at any other time please, as they could easily get damaged or broken.

And Finally...

This term we are aiming to encourage the children to have responsibility for their own belongings (gloves, hats and scarves etc). Please help us by making sure all items are named.

If you would like to speak to us at any point, please feel free to just pop in.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support in your child's learning journey.

Many thanks

The Foundation Team