



Foundation Stage Curriculum Newsletter (Spring 2016) Reception

Welcome back to the start of a new term in Chestnut Class. Here is an overview of the main things that the children will be learning about this term.

Topics: All Kinds of Animals, Farms and Growing

- Communication and Language:
- Engage in circle time to listen to peers, contribute to class discussion and ask and answer 'how' and 'why' questions (e.g. in 'Marvellous Me' and 'Show and Tell').
- Listen and respond to a range of stories and poems based on our topics.
- Learn and use new vocabulary relating to our topics.
- Take part in drama activities based on the key texts studied in class.
- Ask and answer questions about familiar fictional texts.
- Explore non-fiction texts to find out information about animals.
- Develop their own narratives in small world and role-play activities.
- Play games and carry out activities in small groups which require effective communication.

Physical Development:

P.E. will continue to be on a Monday and Friday and 'Yoga/Write Dance' will be on Thursday. Children will take part in games, gymnastics and dance lessons related to our topics in class. They will also take part in regular 'finger gym sessions.' This will offer children the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills through the provision of a range of resources.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

Children will continue to practise classroom rules and listening to instructions. They will consider their own feelings and the feelings of others and think about how to maintain good relationships. They will continue to develop their confidence when speaking in a whole class environment. Children will still have the opportunity to take part in our 'Marvellous Me' show and tell on a Wednesday where they will practise some of the above skills. In **Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.)** the children will think about 'friendship' and 'going for goals.' They will also learn about 'growth' and how to maintain a 'healthy lifestyle.'

Literacy:

- Develop their comprehension skills when listening to and reading a story - the plot, characters, predicting the next part etc. in whole class and guided reading sessions.
- Recognise a range of tricky and high frequency words in reading and start to use them correctly in writing.
- Know the features of fiction and non-fiction texts and select them for different purposes.
- Retell and sequence events in a familiar story.
Use phonic knowledge when writing a sentence and know when to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.
- Learn about writing in different styles e.g. fiction/non-fiction.
- Learn about traditional tales e.g. 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs.'

Mathematics:

- Begin to order the days of the week and the months of the year.
- Understand a 'minute' as a unit of time and begin to read some o' clock times.
- Recognise some coins and their value and begin to solve simple money problems.
- Count forwards and backwards and order and recite numbers to 10 and then 20.
- Sort, recognise and describe a variety of 2D and 3D shapes.
- Continue simple repeating patterns and begin to recognise symmetrical patterns.
- Find 1 and 2 more than a given number.
- Read and understand simple addition and subtraction number sentences.
- Partition 10 objects and learn number bonds to 10.
- Measure weight in non-standard units and use language to compare these e.g. heavier and lighter.

Understanding the World:

In History, the children will be learning about animals from the past. They will learn key facts about 'the dinosaurs.' The children will also consider their own history and how they are changing as they grow. In Geography, the children will think about the season of 'spring.' They will also learn how to read and create simple maps of our school. In Science, children will be thinking about the similarities and differences in relation to various animals and plants. They will make observations and learn about growth, decay and changes over time. In Computing, children will have the opportunity to use the I-pad and the computer during group activities to complete simple programs. They will continue to learn about programmable devices and how to use technology safely. In R.E, the children will learn about the 'creation story.' The theme this term is 'family life' and the children will be thinking about their home. They will also learn about the 'Easter story.'

Expressive Arts and Design:

In Music, children will continue to learn songs related to our topics. They will use a variety of percussion instruments to explore the different sounds that they make. In Art and DT, the children will experiment with texture and colour when painting and drawing. They will learn how to sketch from observation and construct for a purpose; using a range of art materials.

How to help your child:

- Share a range of books and stories with your child including both fiction and non-fiction and encourage them to read often.
- Encourage your child to use familiar phonic strategies when reading and recognise print in the environment.
- Encourage imaginative role-play based around our topics.
- Encourage your child to think mathematically - e.g. explore coins when shopping or notice the features of a clock.
- Practise counting, reading and writing numbers to 10 (and then 20).
- Encourage children to make an estimation before counting the objects in a set.
- Encourage discussion based around our topics e.g. types of animals, how plants grow, how they have changed from a baby etc.
- Engage in creative and outdoor activities with your child to develop fine and gross motor skills.
- Encourage your child to be independent e.g. with dressing and collecting their things for school.

Parent consultations will be held on 22nd and 23rd March 2016

Thank you for all of your support with the above.

Miss Wood