



Foundation Stage Curriculum Newsletter (Spring 2019) 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: Houses and Homes and Castles

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 'Show and Tell,' drama activities and story time).
- Listen and respond to a range of stories and poems based on our topics.
- Learn and use new vocabulary relating to our topics.
- Ask and answer questions about familiar fictional texts.
- Explore non-fiction texts to find out information about our topics.
- 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 Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon this term where your child will continue to take part in games, gymnastics and dance lessons. They will also take part in 'finger gym sessions' each week. 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 continue to develop their confidence when speaking in a whole class environment. Children will have the opportunity to take part in 'show and tell' this term where they will practise some of the above skills. In **Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.)** the children will think about 'New Year's resolutions' and 'going for goals.' They will also think about 'staying safe.'

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
- To use knowledge of phase 2 phonics and begin to explore phase 3
- Recognise a range of tricky and high frequency words in reading and start to use them 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 caption or sentence and begin to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops
- Learn about writing in different styles e.g. fiction/non-fiction and begin to explore interesting vocabulary
- Speaking and listening/drama activities based on stories linked to our topics

Mathematics:

- Understand a 'minute' as a unit of time and begin to read some o' clock times on analogue and digital clocks
- Recognise some coins and their value and begin to solve simple money problems
- Begin to estimate quantities in a set and match a number to a group of objects (up to 20)

- Count forwards and backwards from a given number and order, recite and read numbers to 10 and then 20
- Compare numbers to 20 and begin to explore place value
- Recognise and describe a variety of 2D and 3D shapes and sort objects according to given criteria
- Continue simple repeating patterns and begin to recognise symmetrical patterns
- Find 1 and 2 more than a given number
- Read, understand and begin to record 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 'The Great Fire of London' as part of our houses and homes topic and consider how building materials have changed over time. They will compare old and new houses in the local area and think about the type of house that they live in. They will learn some simple facts about castles, kings and queens from history. In **Geography**, the children will compare the 'town' and the 'countryside.' They will learn about the differences between towns, cities and villages and they will carry out a small scale local study of Welland. They will learn about different homes around the world in comparison to their own immediate environment. In **Science**, the children will be thinking about 'habitats' as part of our 'houses and homes' topic. They will also compare building materials and consider which are best suited for a purpose. In **Computing**, children will continue to use the I-pad and the computer during individual and group activities. They will use a variety of educational apps and games which link to curriculum areas. They will also learn how to give instructions to programmable devices. In **R.E**: The children will be learning about 'special places' including places that are special to them and special religious places. They will visit the local church. They will also learn about the story of Easter.

Children will continue to visit Woodland Wonder every Wednesday morning this term where they will learn about nature and their surrounding environment through practical, first-hand experiences.

Expressive Arts and Design:

In **Music**, children will continue to learn songs related to our topics and use a variety of percussion instruments to explore the different sounds that they make. The focus this term will be on 'pitch.' In **Art and DT**, The children will focus on a variety of art techniques including colour, design, texture, form and function. They will learn how to sketch from observation and construct for a purpose; using a range of art materials.

How to help your child:

- **Continue to read often with your child** (they can alternate between their reading book and 'key words' flashcards) and explore a range of texts. Encourage your child to use familiar phonic strategies for decoding and to 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) and encourage your child to estimate before counting the objects in a set.
- Encourage discussion based around our topics e.g. how is Welland different to Worcester? Which materials are houses made from and why? Who might have lived in a castle?
- Engage in creative and outdoor activities with your child to develop fine and gross motor skills.
- Continue to encourage independence e.g. with dressing and preparing things for school.

Thank you for all of your support with the above.

Mrs Price