

Reception Curriculum Letter

Spring Term January - April 2023

Dear Parents,

Our second term already! Firstly, a huge well done to all the children for working so hard during the Autumn Term, they have settled in beautifully and are following daily routines, showing excellent behaviour and learning new things every day. Secondly, thank you for all your support with the reading and encouragement towards your children. Children will always thrive in a positive and kind environment and together we can give that. This Spring term our topic is Unusual Creatures, beginning with a discussion of our change of Season into Winter and looking at where in the world it is always Winter. We then spend the rest of the half-term learning all about dinosaurs. Concentrating mainly on non-fiction texts, we will meet Andy who will guide us through our Dinosaur adventure. We will also squeeze in a Chinese New Year Celebration with all the stories, songs and our trip.

After Half-Term we'll continue with our topic but with fictional creatures, starting with the well loved Gruffalo and some other strange characters. Easter celebrations will bring our Spring term to a close, with even more celebrations of the resurrection and maybe the odd egg hunt.

The children will be continuing their learning and development in key skills in each of the following areas listed below through a range of carpet sessions, focus group work and independent choice.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Yepes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are getting to know Jesus more in the first Half term, learning about what he was like as a little boy and meeting some of his friends known as his disciples. Through stories, role-play and songs we will learn how Jesus was a good friend and he would want us to be a good friend to others. We will read stories of how he looked after others in times of need and performed miracles. In the second Half term, we will be focussing on the story of Easter and Jesus's relationship with his friend Peter. We talk about the sorrow and joy that the celebration brings. Please refer to the separate RE curriculum newsletter for further information.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PSED)

We continue using our P.S.E.D scheme 'Ten Ten' and the children learn they are uniquely created by God and special because they are made and loved by Him. We encourage the children to talk about what talents they have that make them special and unique. There are stories where we meet the characters Freddy Teddy and Mollie the Cat who help the children realise how wonderful their unique, God-given bodies are and in an age appropriate way, that privates are private. The children are asked to help Freddy Teddy make good, healthy lifestyle decisions, including about exercise, diet, sleep and personal hygiene. After Half-Term the children consider what likes and dislikes they have in common. Children will also participate in a story in which Mollie the Cat feels bad because she doesn't like catching mice, but comes to a place of self-acceptance with the help of her friends. Using pictures and short stories of Freddy Teddy and his friends experiencing different feelings, children will discuss how they are feeling, what feelings can look like and why they might be feeling them. They will also work on empathy and understanding of others, looking at a real life example of a challenging situation like pupils may face. Children will engage creatively with this story, learning that actions have consequences; that when we make mistakes, we should say sorry and ask for forgiveness. This will lead into a basic exploration of of Jesus' forgiveness for us.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)

To ensure that all the children can start writing more we will continue with fine motor exercises, encouraging correct pencil grip and improving size and letter formation. For more information on how to support your child with building strength to write please see activities on Google Classroom. During P.E this half-term we are focusing on throwing and catching, starting off with the basics of looking and being ready with beanbags building up to balls. Moving on we will be looking at how we kick and receive balls leading into simple ball games. We will also be talking more about the importance of physical exercise and why we need it to be healthy. Please continue supporting your child's independence ensuring they are actively involved in dressing and undressing themselves; buttons are a great way to build up finger strength!

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE (C&L)

The children had lots of practise of speaking in public during the Autumn Term with their assembly and the Nativity. We will have another assembly in the 2nd part of Spring Term and Show and Tell will begin. During Show and Tell and when reading and listening to stories we will be focussing on answering how and why questions with full sentences to ensure understanding. Also a focus on speaking in the correct tense e.g. I am going to the park, I went to the park. We will listen to more stories without pictures to develop our listening skills and to encourage use of our imagination. Please support your child at home by correcting tenses, keep encouraging them to speak in full sentences and read stories or listen to online stories without pictures – I will add a few suggestions to Google Classroom.

MATHEMATICS (MATHS)

The first part of the Spring Term we will continue learning our numbers 0, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The children have become experts in showing amounts on their fingers and collecting the amounts. We will look closer at the language of altogether introducing the concept of addition. The children will be given the opportunity to use scales to weigh and be asked to measure height and length. We will also continue looking at different ways we measure time.

After Half-Term we will learn about the numbers 9 and 10, what makes things equal and unequal and 3D shapes. The children all have shown a good understanding to number during the Autumn Term. We will be focussing more on representing the numeral so any practise of writing numerals at home is always helpful.

LITERACY (LIT)

We completed Set 1 sounds in the Autumn term following the R.W.I programme so we will be focussing on the revision of the 'special friends' in Set 1. This is when 2 sounds together make 1 e.g. th, sh, ch. We will be practising daily reading and writing of sounds to ensure the children are following the rhymes when forming their letters: 'a = round the apple and down the leaf'

Depending on which group your child is working in, they will be reading green word cards building up to ditties and finally onto Red books which is the first book in the scheme. As the children begin to bring home reading books then please ask them simple comprehension questions: Who was in the book? What happened when? What was your favourite part? A lot of effort goes into sounding out the words and sometimes meaning can be lost so this is good way to check if they understand what they are reading. We will be reading lots of non-fiction books during our dinosaur topic and talking about how they are different to our storybooks. In the second part of the term, we will be learning all about unusual creatures starting with a favourite – The Gruffalo.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD (KUW)

Dinosaurs are our first big topic in the Spring Term – learning all about a time long, long ago. We will be studying the different types of dinosaurs and asking important questions; what they looked like? How they moved? What they ate? Most importantly, why they are not here anymore? Dinosaurs are a great topic for the children to ask many questions about how we find out things that are not around anymore. Also a trip to the Natural History museum to see the size of some of those amazing animals. Of course, we will continue to celebrate exploring different traditions with Chinese New Year and a very exciting trip to China Town. Continuing from our learning about the Autumn season, we will be looking closely at the change into winter and introducing the globe finding where in the world it is always Winter. Then the change into Spring focussing on differences between the seasons. In I.C.T, the children will be learning how to type and become more independent accessing websites and we will be talking about how we stay safe when we use the internet.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN (EAD)

As the children's creative skills grow and they become, more confident in using different tools we will be encouraging them to try new techniques or combine ones that they know to create their own designs. There will be more of a focus on planning, taking time and care into their creations first so they know what they need and how they are going to make it so they can feel proud of the end result. In the classroom, we always provide a range of small world creatures, people and transport so the children can use their imagination to play with others using the language they have learnt at school. We will continue to learn new songs and dances and try to make up some new ones of our own. Please encourage your children to sing songs as it helps with language development as well as being fun!

