

Foundation Stage Curriculum News

Summer 2017

Welcome back. This newsletter is to let you know a little about what your child will be learning during the next term.

Our topic for this term is Traditional Tales and Nursery Rhymes

The topic has been split up into different themes which are covered over 1 or 2 weeks. The themes are based around What is a traditional Tale?; Little Red Riding Hood; Jack & The Beanstalk; The Elves & The Shoemaker; The Princess & The Frog; Humpty Dumpty; Little Miss Muffet & Incy Wincy Spider. We will be learning rhymes from other countries and looking at culture & beliefs in Japan when we learn about the Children's Day festival in May. The topic themes are all linked to the areas of learning and development which form the new Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and are summarised below.

Prime areas of Learning and Development:

Personal Social and Emotional Development: during the term your child will have the opportunity to discuss and learn about a variety of things linked to their work in these topics e.g. personal hygiene, sharing and taking turns, talking about personal experiences and feelings when sharing stories, stranger danger, taking things that don't belong to you, helping others, being frightened and keeping promises. They will also be learning about fair & unfair and changes which will include preparation for changes of class in September. RRSAs work will be linked with these topics and also with our RE theme this term which looks at stories from different faiths. We will be considering the right of every child to follow the beliefs and traditions linked to their culture. During general school and classroom activities children will learn to become more independent and have continued opportunities to interact and develop relationships with adults and children across the school community. We aim for the children to continue to be excited and motivated about their learning and as a result, be ready for the new challenges ahead.

Physical Development: in this area, children are encouraged to use a range of small and large equipment with increasing control, confidence and imagination. During this topic children will be developing large motor skills in PE activities based around using different sorts of equipment, and during outdoor play. Through these activities they will also recognise the changes in their bodies when they exercise and learn that exercise is important for keeping healthy. Small motor skills will continue to be developed through many classroom activities which will include, using construction, sand and water, cutting and sticking activities and modelling with different materials.

Communication and Language: this area covers aspects of Listening & Attention; Understanding and Speaking. We will address learning for the development of speaking & listening skills by providing regular opportunities for:

- Listening to, sharing and discussing a variety of traditional stories, poems, rhymes from different cultures and countries. This will give opportunities for discussing characters, events and actions and relating things in the stories to their own experiences. We will be using information books and other sources to help us to find out more about themes introduced in our stories and rhymes, for example spiders and other mini beasts.
- Discussing and making observations about different situations, character actions and themes within stories. The children can then participate in a weekly review of learning and then plan together for the following week. Beginning to generate appropriate questions for learning and beginning to suggest/find ways to answer these questions.
- Collaboration when organising and planning both self - initiated and directed work.
- Using drama techniques, opportunities for role play and work with puppets to develop understanding and speaking skills through story building; story retelling and creating imaginary dialogue.
- Making simple observations and discussing and describing similarities and differences that they observe.
- Listening to each other and asking and answering questions appropriately when talking about things they have done or found out.
- Giving or following instructions accurately in order to use a programmable toy.
- Talking to adults and peers about what they have done, how they have done it and things that they might change or improve.
- Having experience of specific subject and /or topic related vocabulary so exploring and learning new words to widen vocabulary.

Specific areas of Learning and Development:

Literacy: whilst following our topic themes, the children will be continuing to develop their reading and writing skills. They will have opportunities to listen to and join in with a variety of texts including stories, poems, rhymes, and instructions and information text. Through activities linked to these stories, rhymes and themes, they will be consolidating their knowledge of letters, sounds and words to use what they know to read more complex words and sentences. They will have lots of opportunities to observe how authors describe and develop characters and story plots. They will be attempting writing for different purposes using different forms of writing e.g. maps & plans; instructions, posters, stories, signs and labels and writing captions for pictures & photos. Via these activities, they will be encouraged to rehearse their letter formation skills using a correct pencil grip and showing increasing control over the size and shape of letters in their writing. We will continue to follow a daily programme called Letters and Sounds to teach blending and segmenting of sounds in words for reading and

spelling. We use 'Action Words', a programme designed to help your child read and spell words from memory and 'focused' handwriting sessions to train correct movement and direction leading towards increased independence in correct letter formation. Your support with the homework linked to these areas is much appreciated.

Mathematics: focused teaching in this area will help your child to develop their understanding of number to 20 and beyond (number recognition & counting), calculation (adding & taking away), problem solving, recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes and beginning to measure length, capacity, weight and time. They will also develop these areas through the topic by taking part in activities such as data handling - favourite traditional tales; position and direction - a journey through the woods; sorting, estimating, counting and using bean seeds for practical addition and subtraction; counting along and back on Jack's beanstalk; counting in twos (shoes) and measuring length with shoes; 2D and 3D shape work based around Humpty Dumpty; counting more & less with spiders and telling the time with Hickory Dickory Dock. This term your child will also be focusing more on how to write down number sentences using numbers and signs and should be starting to learn and use simple number facts from memory. Activities will continue to be mostly in the form of games and practical tasks so that your child will be learning whilst also having fun.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World: activities to develop understanding in this area will include learning about different types of weather; looking at and making maps - real & imaginary; learning about their own local environment; planning & carrying out simple investigations; growing & observing plants, comparing shoes from the past & present and looking at shoes from different countries; finding out about the life cycle of a frog and learning a little about Japanese culture and beliefs. We will continue to work on our outdoor area looking at ways to improve the environment to encourage more bird and insect and plant life. We will be working with computers, digital cameras and microphones; I pads; CD players and programmable toys thus giving your child the opportunity to explore and learn about the uses of technology.

Creative development: throughout the topic the children will experience working with a variety of different materials to paint and draw, make models with junk, make puppets and use construction toys, use dough and other malleable materials. They will also have frequent opportunities to communicate ideas and express themselves through role-play, movement, singing and playing musical instruments. They will be creating and performing puppet shows having made scenery, puppets and composing; recording and evaluating musical accompaniments. In addition to this, they will continue to enjoy weekly focused music lessons.

If you would like to follow some of these areas up at home here are a few ideas:

- Talk about the weather and how it changes. Name different types of weather. Talk about appropriate clothes for different types of weather.
- Look for signs of spring and summer in gardens and on walks. Collect objects to make collages and pictures. Talk about the things the children like doing in these seasons.
- Talk about ways to keep healthy - especially outdoors as the weather begins to improve.
- Talk about the things you will be eating and discuss healthy choices and the importance of having foods of different types in a balanced diet.
- Involve your child in helping you in the garden. Encourage them to plant seeds and plants and care for them.
- Talk about being a good sport when playing games and competing.
- Talk about how we keep our bodies safe when the sun is hot.

See also the topic linked ideas on the attached Parent's Page.

Our weekly planning is put on the notice board in the quiet room. This outlines specific activities and links them to learning objectives in much more detail. You are welcome to look at this so that you will be able to see exactly what your child will be learning in a given week. You are also encouraged to see your child's record of development booklet. This will be sent home at least once a term but you may ask to see it at any other time.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, or would like more information about the curriculum and how it supports your child's development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kirkness, Mrs Morton, Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Donaldson (Reception Team)