

Spring Term 1 Newsletter



Happy new year and welcome back!

Our topic for the second half term is **'What happens when I fall asleep?'**



Personal and Social Development:



Our focus for this will be similarities and differences between ourselves and in our routines at home and school and the importance of getting a good night sleep.



Literacy:

We will continue to follow the programme 'Read, Write, Inc' which is developing our knowledge of single letter sounds and also how to blend and segment them to read and write words and phrases. Please do look at our planning overview (on the cloakroom notice board) or ask a member of staff about the sounds for the week, or if you have any other questions.



Your child is also still welcome to choose and borrow story books for you to share and talk about at home from our 'lending library', accessible in class every morning.

Maths:



Our focus will be linked to time - days of the week, seasons and months of the year and measuring time in simple ways e.g. using sand timers. We will also be introducing the concept of o'clock. Ensuring that the children use the language of time in simple everyday language will be a key objective. Number and counting will still be an ongoing objective as will understanding 1 more and 1 less. We will also focus on the concept of addition and subtraction, linking them to 'more' and 'less'.



Understanding the World:

The topic will include routines at home and school - particularly bedtime routines at home and the importance of getting a good night sleep. We will also explore nocturnal animals and the jobs that people who work at night do. Part of our topic will be exploring outer space; the stars and planets, in very simple terms.



Creative:

We will use the core story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy to inspire our imaginative possibilities and creating junk model spaceships/ rockets.

Making clay aliens and paintings of other worlds will also feature. Our role play area will enable us to visit the moon (again linked to 'Whatever Next').

ICT:



We will continue to use the programme Dazzle and create outer space pictures to continue, etc to develop mouse control and tool selection. We will also access number and reading activities. Please do help us to assess your child's technical ability by using the 'star moments' cards - what can they control at home? Do they choose and play computer games? Can they operate a remote control to select things on screen? Etc.



Physical Development:

There will be access to the outside area everyday where we can use large construction equipment (crates, etc) and also equipment such as hoops, quoits, bean bags, balls, etc. On fine days we will still be using the trim trail to continue to develop our self confidence.

During PE (**Tuesdays**) will still be focusing on different ways of moving in and around space. We have learned how to carry and use small apparatus, e.g. benches and mats, safely and will continue to work on and around them - jumping and landing safely, understanding the importance of space. We will learn to perform 'sausage rolls' and different shapes e.g. pin/tuck/star and use them when jumping and balancing. A key focus will be understanding the effects of exercise on our bodies and the benefits it brings for healthy lifestyles.



Please help us by remembering to send your child to school with their PE kit (black shorts, white t-shirt) every Tuesday.



Other aspects of physical development will include fine motor control or 'Funky Fingers' e.g. threading beads, using scissors to cut more accurately. We will continue to develop correct letter/number formation, through 'Read, Write, Inc'. Please help us to ensure that your child is developing the correct pencil grip (we call it 'froggy fingers' in class').

We will continue to build the strength in our hands and fingers during 'Doh Disco' activities.

Notices/ things to remember;



Please bring PE kits on Monday and take them home again on Friday.

Our PE time hall slot is on TUESDAY.



The children will have access to the outdoor area on a daily basis, whatever the weather.

We provide waterproof coats and trousers for all children to use but **please provide your child with a pair of wellington boots** (please write their name inside) so that they can participate fully in all of our outdoor investigational and messy play activities.

Additional/spare clothing must be sent to school with your child each day e.g. trousers, pants, socks.



If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to pop in and see us.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs McGlone and Mrs Barrass.

Here is our homework menu. You can choose to do these activities in any order over the course of the half term - photos can also be used. This may help your child talk about their work with us.

Make a spaceship or rocket using junk materials or an alien creature.



What are your bedtime routines?
What do you do after school each day? Is it always the same e.g. teatime, bath, story and bedtime?



Look for signs of spring. Collect, take photos/ make a list/labels and count the animals, birds, colours, plants (spring bulbs/buds) and anything else that you see.



Go for a walk/play in the garden on a frosty day - talk about the temperature, frost, etc. Discuss the clothing needed and why.



IF it snows...
build a snowman



and take a photo!



Investigate the properties of water - what happens when it freezes and melts. Discuss the idea that it can freeze, melt and freeze again, but some materials cannot.



Melt chocolate and make crispy cornflake/rice crispy cakes.

Discuss melting and solidifying.

