



Year R Curriculum Report – Spring Term A

We are focusing on a variety of texts and stories this half term. These will include the Greatest Showman, the story of Chinese New Year, The Enormous Turnip and The Great Paper Caper. These have been chosen to follow the interests of the children, explore different cultures and investigate current environmental issues as part of our whole school environmental awareness week.

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development: The children will be encouraged to take steps to resolve conflicts with other children through finding a compromise. They will be supported to describe themselves in positive terms and talk about their abilities, and extended to praising their friends for their positive aspects as well. We will explore what makes us all different, and ways to celebrate this.

Physical Development: We will continue to focus on gross and fine motor movements, exploring ways that exercise can contribute to good health and using pencils to form recognisable letters, using the school script. All children will now be practising letter formation daily, and would benefit from using school script at home during any writing that they may choose to do.

Communication and Language: In order to achieve the expected level for the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage in July, children need to be using tenses correctly when they speak. You can support your child with this by modelling talking in full sentences as much as possible and correcting errors they frequently make. We will explore recounting our experiences and telling stories to each other, with opportunities to act out stories that the children have told for an audience. Encourage your child to extend their language and recount skills by using words such as “and”, “then”, “next”, “before” or “later on” to expand their accounts. We are introducing a new way of telling stories using a ‘Character, Setting, Problem, Solution’ structure to support this narrative concept.

Literacy: We will be continuing to develop the children’s phonic knowledge through daily group sessions. Some children are beginning to learn ‘digraphs’ (two letters that make one sound – e.g. ch, ee, or). Each sound has a rhyme to help children remember it. (They can be found on the school website – please look under the Parents Page tab.) We are also continuing to explore “tricky words” such as “to”, “the”, and “go” this half term. Keep an eye out for these words and ask your child if they recognise them! An important part of becoming a successful reader and writer is developing the confidence to use these skills independently. You can help your child with this by making sure there are books to read and writing resources available at home, as well as ensuring that you participate in the Reading Challenge as often as possible.

Mathematics: This half term we will be exploring addition, introducing the concept using practical resources and beginning to look at a number line. We will also be exploring measurement, with a focus on weight and capacity. The children will explore estimation, so encourage your child to guess how many items there are before counting to support them in this area. Please continue to support your child’s number recognition to 20, with a focus on ‘teen numbers in particular.

Understanding of the world: We will focus on what is similar and different between us and our friends. Discussing what makes your child unique and celebrating this is a great way to introduce this. In Forest School, the children will continue to talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. Children will also have the opportunity to use Draw and Tell (an iPad app) to tell stories.

Expressive Arts and Design – The children will be encouraged to select resources and work independently to shape, assemble and join materials. There will be many opportunities to play cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative through a circus role play and a stage, as well as the home corner. We will complete two art projects this half term – the first will focus on The Juggler by Warren Cullar and the children will be invited to use printing as a tool to recreate parts of the image. We will also use our environmental week as an opportunity to extend our art skills.

Home learning challenge

This half term, our home learning challenges are:

Chat – Create and tell your own story using the format ‘Character, Setting, Problem, Solution’. You could extend this by using technology to record it too!

Play – Choose a piece of art by an artist or illustrator that you like. Can you use things from around the house to recreate part of the picture?

Read – Visit a library and choose a book to share. Talk about the book and ask questions to each other.



Reminders

Learning Journeys

Thank you to the parents who are already contributing to their child’s Learning Journey through Tapestry. It would be great for more parents to add their contributions about what your child has learnt at home – this could be cooking, painting, reading or amazing you with their knowledge of the world!

Reading

If anyone is able to help listen to readers (it doesn’t have to be every week) for even just half an hour, please let your child’s class teacher know. It is so important that children are able to practise these skills regularly and any extra help will make a huge difference to the children. Thank you to those parents who already volunteer – I think you will agree that the children are really benefitting.

Coats and Jumpers

Please continue to send your child in with a jumper and a coat, even if the weather seems bright in the morning. Forecasts can change and the children play outside in all weathers.

Naming Clothes

We are seeing an increasing number of items go missing which are not named. We appreciate that replacing school uniform regularly is expensive, but it is difficult to match unnamed items to the right child. Please name all items of clothing and check regularly to ensure that the name is still legible.