



Reception and Nursery Overview – Spring Term Overview

Phonics

- During our Phonics sessions, we will continue to follow the Floppy Phonics program. Children are taught in whole classes with further support for children needing additional challenge or support when needed. We are currently reviewing and teaching some of the level 1+ sounds and beginning of level 2 sounds: le,ss,j,v,w,x,y,z,zz and qu. This half term we will continue to teach the digraphs: two letters that make one sound such as 'qu' and 'zz'. Throughout this term we will be continuing to blend and segment CVC words such as cat, dog, mud and spell words with sounds that we have been taught in such as quiz.

Nursery Phonics

During Phonics lessons, Nursery children are being taught a range of Phase 1 skills such as sound discrimination, repeating beats using instruments and being introduced to the appearance of different letters. We will now be beginning to recognise when words begin with the same sound and recognise rhythm and rhyming words. Nursery continue with our tailored Phonics program so that they are well prepared for learning some of the single sounds in the Summer term. We will now be encouraging children to listen orally for the initial sound in words such as 'c' for 'cat'.

Reading

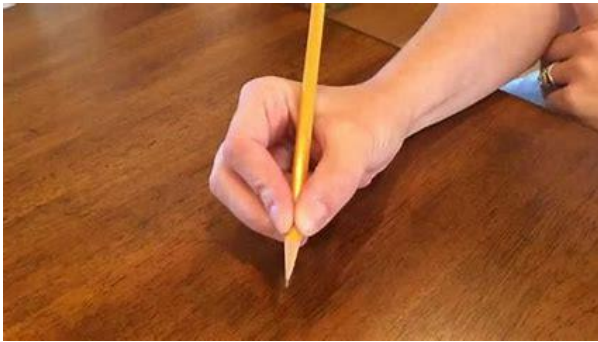
- Some children have now moved onto a worded Phonics decodable book and a shared library book to share with an adult. This may be a wordless book until your child is confident with blending simple three letter words with the sounds that have been taught in Phonics. We always constantly assess your child throughout the year to see if they need to progress onto the next staged book. It is very important that you continue to aim to read with your child at least 4 times a week. We monitor the the amount of times your child reads in their yellow reading record and if this is 4 or more, your child will earn their extra playtime. In Nursery, children are given a wordless Phonics book in the Summer term. Your child will be regularly assessed to see if they are ready for a Phonics worded book in preparation for Reception. If we feel your child is ready they may be placed on a worded book when they can read and blend CVC words on our Phonics assessment.

Writing

- The children will now be giving meaning to the marks they make and beginning to form some of their letters accurately that they have been taught in Phonics lessons and using their sound mat.
- They will be writing and drawing pictures of their Christmas holidays, retell the story of 'Farmer Duck', writing a jungle description for the book 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and design and write a description of their own dinosaur linked to the story of 'Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs'.

Fine motor skills

- Throughout both the Reception and Nursery year, we have a big focus on a 'perfect pencil grip'. (Please see picture below). The children will continue to complete their dough disco sessions daily. Please continue to practise writing letters and forming letters from your child's first and second names.



Maths

- We will continue to focus on representing numbers to 10 and beyond in a variety of ways such as dots, pictures, numerals etc.
- We will compare numbers to ten and ,extended to 20, using the language of 'more', 'fewer' and 'less than'.
- We will have a focus on addition and subtraction using number lines, pictures and concrete apparatus and see if the children can notice patterns when adding two numbers together, with a clear focus on number bonds to 10.
- The children will begin to measure length, height and weight using non-standard units of measure such as cubes.

Nursery Maths

- The children will start to order items in terms of their height, size and length.
- We will have a focus on counting, ordering numbers and representing numbers using marks and pictures on paper.
- The children will also match number to quantity to 5 and challenged to 10.

Topic

- For the next three weeks our topic will be 'The Amazing Animal Kingdom'. In this unit children will enjoy exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts about animals. They will differentiate between domestic pets, farm animals and wild animals and learn about their natural habitats. The children will learn about the needs of different animals and gain an understanding of the particular needs of animals. They will recognise animals at varying stages of development and understand about the importance of taking responsibility for looking after and caring for animals. The children will enjoy listening to music that depicts animals and how they move. They will learn about the instruments the composer chooses to represent animals and their characteristics.
- Children will then move onto 'Discovering Dinosaurs'. In this unit children will ask simple questions about the prehistoric past and changes. They will observe and recognise some characteristics of dinosaurs. The children will know what a fossil is and what information we can gather from them. They will research where dinosaurs have been found and identify places on a map. The children will order dinosaur and current events to highlight difference in time. They will sort and group dinosaurs by identifying their similarities and differences. The children will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.
- In Spring 2, children will begin to learn about growing, plants and minibeasts in our topic 'Petals, Pots and Magnificent Minibeasts.' In this unit children will explore different mini-beasts and will be introduced to simple classification of insects. They will observe and investigate mini-beasts in their habitats, exploring the local environment. The children will look some of the beautiful and unusual varieties of colours and patterns in the natural world through close observation, exploring camouflage and animal signals. They will investigate regular 2D and 3D shapes in mini-beasts and discover spirals, patterns of webs and symmetry using butterfly wings. The children will continue their understanding of growth as they investigate the life cycle of butterfly. The children will investigate, identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants. They will identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants and will produce observational drawings. The children will use the local environment to explore and answer questions about plants growing in their habitat. They will observe the growth of flowers and vegetables that they have planted.

How can I help at home?

Phonics ideas:

Read to your child before bedtime and share their excitement for reading.

Visit the library.

Listen to your child read at least 4 times per week.

Practise blending simple words such as hen, cat, stop etc.

Writing ideas:

Practise forming some of the letters from your sound mat and put these sounds into words using the sounds that have been taught.

Create a pattern or picture using a yellow highlighter and encourage your child to trace over the highlighter pen.

Practise writing simple sentences such as 'It is a dog.' Encourage your child to use finger spaces, full stops and capital letters.

Practise reading your tricky words. Put the tricky words around the house and encourage your child to read this. Your child has now received their copy of set 2 tricky words and will receive set 3 at the end of Spring term.

Encourage your child to draw a picture of their choice and add key details such as eyes/ hair etc. Can they label the picture with the initial sound e.g. p for person.

Maths ideas:

Practise number formation of different numbers to 10 and 20.

Practise counting objects and matching the number to quantity.

Write down your number bonds and use a tens frame to help you represent different amounts.

Useful Websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.topmarks.co.uk