

Curriculum Update - November 2022

THEME - NEVER EAT SHREDDED WHEAT

Our second theme for the Autumn term is a short one called *Never eat Shredded Wheat*. It is based around where food comes from, with a key focus on Geography. We are excited to learn some new geographical skills, and the children began by looking at compass directions and locational language such as, near, far, next to and between. They have been identifying countries within the United Kingdom as well as around the world and have enjoyed looking at maps and globes, and drawing their own imaginative maps. As a next step, the children will also be learning about continents and oceans. We are exploring the idea of physical, natural and manmade geographical features, and next, the learning will move onto discovering where foods come from around the world.

READING

Thank you for your support with reading at home so far this term. We appreciate the comments in the Reading Records. Please do send your child to school with their bookbags, reading books and diaries each day as we often catch them for an 'extra' read whenever we can. We have been encouraging the children to choose a book from our *Book Nook* to share with you at home when they change their reading books. This offers breadth and interest, and an opportunity for you to read for pleasure together. Please take care of these books and return them when you have finished as they are a valuable resource in our classroom.

PHONICS

We have now learned Sets 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Chapter 4a of our Phonics Shed programme, and almost all of Set 5. The scheme allowed time after October Half Term for consolidation of these sounds and our next step is to learn about split digraphs: a_e (ai), e_e (ee), i_e (igh), o_e (oa), u_e (ue) and u_e (oo).

The children are continuing to learn how to blend sounds to read words, and segment sounds to write words. We continue to focus on High Frequency Words from Chapters 2 and 3, as well as introducing those in Chapter 4a, and we are aiming to read them with increasing speed to gain fluency.

There are some High Frequency Words that cannot be sounded out as usual. These are 'Locked, Tricky Words' which we have also been practising to read at speed.

HANDWRITING

The children have started using new handwriting books which have coloured lines that encourage them to think carefully about the size and spacing of their letters and about which letters are tall or go under the line. So far, they have shown very good focus and concentration and have taken pride in their work.

The children are working really hard at sitting letters on the line and remembering to put spaces between their words when working, and it is a great achievement when they can do this without having to be reminded. The children have produced some good writing both in guided groups and independently. We have been looking back at their writing from the start of the year and we are pleased to see how they have improved.

PE

Prior to October Half Term the children were learning about *Multi Skills* within PE. The children developed a variety of movement skills that build the foundation for playing different sports. The children learned that a multi-skilled player is someone who can think about where to move, when to move, and how to move during an activity. Some of the skills the children worked on during lessons included throwing, catching and rolling different sized balls, and travelling in and out of spaces safely and in different ways. As they developed these multi skills, the children began to improve their coordination and balance; agility and flexibility; strength and power; as well as stamina and speed.

The children have since moved onto developing their gymnastics skills and are beginning to produce routines with a "Present", "Jump", "Stretch" and "Roll" using a range of apparatus including trampettes.

MATHS

The children have been continuing to consolidate and develop their number skills within the concept of Place Value, and we are now moving onto work in addition and subtraction within ten. The children will be asked to develop their mental maths skills, and write number sentences and find the answers using number lines and hundred squares to solve calculations.

THEME - ZERO TO HERO

We are looking forward to starting our third theme soon. This is a thematic unit about heroes and heroines, both past and present, who have overcome major challenges in life and become inspirational figures. There is a key subject focus on history and the children will also explore the curriculum areas of Art, Design Technology, Science, Music, and PSHE. We begin our theme by looking at the life and career of the sportsman Michael Jordan, as well as asking the children who they are interested in finding out about.

HOME LEARNING

Reading

Please continue to read with your child each night at home, and record their progress in the Reading Record. We would dearly like to start awarding the children with their *40 Reads* certificate!

High Frequency Words

We are currently preparing small sets of six *High Frequency Words* to be practised at home alongside the reading books. We will send further information soon, but once your child can confidently read all six words in a set we will give them another set of six words. A lot of these are the 'Locked, Tricky Words' that the children will be expected to recognise by sight before the end of this academic year. An effective way to learn *High Frequency Words* is to stick them around the house. For example, when cleaning teeth the words could be on the bathroom door, or when making breakfast the words could be on the kitchen cupboard. Learning to read these with speed or by sight will help children develop fluency with their reading.

Phonics Shed

Please do access your child's *Phonics Shed Garden* via the QR code stuck inside the cover of their Reading Record to access books and games to practise blending and segmenting. Since the week of Parents Evenings in October we have been setting one book to read and a game to play each week.

Seesaw

We have started to set a variety of activities connected to our learning within the classroom on Seesaw and it has been fabulous to see so many families engage with this. Occasionally we will also use this platform to share your child's personal learning journey. Please let us know if you have any questions.