

Curriculum Update - September 2022

Welcome

A big warm welcome to our Class 1 children and families. We have had a wonderful start to the school year with the children transitioning confidently into their new classroom environment. They have been learning all about Class 1 expectations, creating our class agreements together and working as a community of learners to fulfil all of our responsibilities. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed making connections with old and new *Team Madley* friends.

We hope that this update is useful and helps to explain some of the routines for Class 1 children, and you enjoy reading all about what we have been up to in the first few weeks of the Autumn term.

Our Week

Monday – Miss Thomas and Mrs Fleming
Tuesday – Miss Thomas and Mrs Fleming
Wednesday Miss Thomas/Miss Freeman and Mrs Fleming
Thursday – Miss Thomas and Mrs Devereux
Friday – Miss Thomas and Mrs Devereux

We are also supported regularly by Mrs Woodall and Mr Lacey.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. The start of the day is great for a quick message at the gate. Alternatively, please catch us at the end of the day, or leave a message at the office and we will get back to you.



Literacy

The children have been developing their writing skills and have enjoyed writing messages for their family and friends, and addressing the envelopes. They have loved exploring three different Story Sacks (handmade by Miss Freeman's Mum!) to retell the stories of *Rainbow Fish*, *Handa's Surprise* and *Elmer*, as well as selecting picture books to read by themselves or share with a friend in our *Book Nook*. The children are practising letter formations, and working towards making their letters an even size and sitting them on a line.

Phonics

We have introduced a new Phonics scheme called *Phonics Shed*, and in Class 1 we have started our learning at Chapter 4a. Information about this can be found on the *Learning Guidance* area of our *Class Page* on the school website.

A typical day

08:50 - Children are welcomed into school
09:00 - Children are registered
09:10 - Children attend a Whole School Assembly
09:35 - Whole Class Focus - Phonics Shed
10:10 - Handwriting/Reading

Children work with an adult for a period of time with a group or individual focus. Children play in continuous provision in our indoor or outdoor classroom.

10:30 - Morning Break
10:50 - Snack Time
11:00 - Whole Class Focus - Maths

Children work with an adult for a period with a group or individual focus. Children play in continuous provision in our indoor or outdoor classroom.

12:00 - Prepare for lunch - Digital story and/or songs
12:10 - Children eat lunch
12:30 - Lunch Break
13:00 - Children are registered
13:05 - *Mindful Moment*
13:10 - Whole Class Focus - Theme

Children work with an adult for a period of time with a group or individual focus. Children play in continuous provision in our indoor or outdoor classroom.

14:10 - Afternoon Break
14:30 - Whole Class Focus - Theme (Continued)
15:00 - Tidy-up time and Responsibilities
15:10 - *Showing and Sharing*
15:20 - Prepare for Home Time
15:30 - Dismissal

In addition...

- On Mondays children will participate in a Multi- Skills session with our PE coach Mr Thomas.
- On Wednesdays children will participate in a whole class PE lesson.
- On Thursdays children will participate in a whole class Music lesson with Mrs Blaker.
- On Fridays children will participate in Forest School for the afternoon.



Theme

Our first theme for the term is *Happily Ever After*. We are going to be reading lots of different fairy tales and exploring the different themes associated with them. We have already enjoyed *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

The children have made their own stick puppets by drawing the characters, using black ink on white paper, then cutting them out and sticking them onto lollipop sticks. They have been using their puppets to retell familiar Fairy Tales in their own words. They used a similar technique to draw story maps, and have also been using our outdoor Drama Shack to act out the stories and then annotate the pictures to create their own documentation.

Some of our next steps will include the children designing and producing their own fairy tale stories and scenery using a variety of different materials, as well as creating and dressing-up in imaginative costumes.



Maths

The children have been developing their counting skills and have enjoyed exploring the Maths resources in the classroom, in particular, counting and recognising numbers using games and puzzles, as well as becoming familiar with how our *Interactive Calendar* works.

The children have been practising counting fluently to 10 when counting objects, and then counting a specific number of objects from a larger group.

The children have also learned that collections of objects can be sorted into sets based on attributes such as colour, size or shape. This has enabled the children to consider, what is the same about all the objects in one set, and how they differ from the objects in other sets.

The children loved coming up with their own criteria for sorting objects into sets, and found the book *One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab* a great inspiration for this. We have used the concept of sorting during our daily activities for example, when lining-up, asking the children whether they have a brother, sister or pet.

The children have been learning to represent real-life objects such as conkers, pine cones and sticks using manipulatives such as counters and cubes. They also matched numerals to a set of objects, and also had the opportunity to practise writing the numerals to match a set of objects. The children have enjoyed using *Ten Frames* which are particularly useful for allowing the children to organise their manipulatives in a structured way.

Forest School

The children have been re-discovering our on-site Forest School, and have been introduced to some of the quiet and reflective spaces around school, for example the Legacy Garden and the Tipi. The children love noticing the light changing inside the Tipi, and playing listening games with their eyes closed to name all the different sounds, for example. We have spent time re-familiarising ourselves of the Forest School rules that keep us safe outside. In particular, the Forest School circle and how we move around the circle safely because this will enable us to work towards having a fire in the Tipi during the winter months.

The children are proud to be able to put on their waterproofs and wellies independently. But we are still practising how to fold them away neatly afterwards!

We have read some interesting books about Trees and the children had a go at making a "Texture Tree" using a variety of natural treasures found on the forest floor. They also collected sticks for puppets and named these before using them in their imaginative play. The children are enjoying gathering signs of Autumn for our Light Table in the classroom, and we have talked about "conkers" being gifts from the Chestnut tree, acorns falling from the Oak tree and "helicopter spinners" coming from the Sycamore trees. The children are very interested in the changing seasons, particularly Harvest time.

RE

In RE the children have been learning about Christianity and what Christians believe about God. They have enjoyed looking at children's bibles and have talked about why Jesus is important to Christians. They remembered visiting Madley Church and talked about how special events such as weddings and christenings are held in churches. We have begun learning some of the parables from the bible such as The Lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

There have been lots of opportunities to develop our learning in this area, especially as we created our new class agreements and responsibilities together.

We have had a particular focus on self-regulation through the use of our *Zen Den* and practising "Rainbow Breaths", as well as enjoying "Mindful Moments" through the meeting of famous characters such as Kung Fu Panda and listening to special calming stories that help bring awareness to our busy bodies and minds.

We have developed an area of framed family photographs in our classroom, which the children have loved talking about with each other. We believe learning is a partnership between home and school with the learning environment being the "third teacher". Knowing that you are an integral part of our class and school community is very reassuring for the children particularly on days when they might be missing you. It has been lovely to hear the children celebrating their different families with the class.