

Curriculum Update

I hope everyone has enjoyed their first two weeks at school as much as we have! We are extremely proud of how well the children have settled into the classroom routine and into school life. As each week passes, there are new adventures and experiences to be shared together. A few reminders about our weekly activities.

Monday - Forest School (please wear appropriate Forest School clothes)

Wednesday - PE (please wear PE kit)

Thursday - PE (please wear PE kit)

This will be the same every week unless information is shared otherwise.

Forest School

We enjoyed exploring our on-site Forest School area this week and getting used to some of our Forest School rules. The children were very keen to know when they would be venturing off to our big off-site Forest School area. Once we know the Forest School rules are embedded, we will be able to explore at our off-site Forest School area.

This week we talked about the leaves that are starting to change on the trees and why this happens. I challenged the children to find something: red, green and brown. We talked about why red things were much harder to find than green things. We compared the different

Irish dancing

We had a fantastic time with Jack this week learning our first new step in Irish dancing. We learnt how to skip both forwards and to the side and danced along to some Irish music. The children listened brilliantly and we used the parachute to help us too. We will be continuing with Irish dancing every Thursday!

School website

We have now received consent to allow children's photographs to be used on the website and I shall upload some photos over the next week to share some of the things that we have been doing.

The information that I share will mostly now be done through curriculum updates, which will stay on the website for you to refer back to, however there will be times where I will upload videos onto the Madley TV area too.

'Normally', I would invite you to a reading evening to explain our phonics and reading scheme but as there is a lot of information to share this is something I will do through a video.

Marvellous Me

Marvellous Me is an opportunity for the children to share some special items from home. This opportunity encourages the children to develop: listening skills, questioning skills, confidence and trust amongst their peers. As a school, we know this is something that the children really value therefore we endeavour to continue to allow this to take place this year with new safety measures and precautions in place. To ensure that there is no cross contamination between home and school, only the box will come home. The child should then fill the box with their special things and return it to school with a plastic bag. After sharing their special things, the child will then put them into their plastic bag and take them straight home. The box will then be cleaned and wiped and quarantined for at least 72 hours before going home with another child. Within the classroom, the child will not be able to pass around their special items only show them to their friends. The same process will happen with our class bear as well as it being washed on its return to school.

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Reading

Over the next few weeks, we will begin to send reading books home. Similarly, to the Marvellous Me box, we can't have the books continually being transported backwards and forwards between home and school. Therefore, new books will be sent home every Monday and collected back in the following Monday and the cycle repeated. The books that are returned to school will then be cleaned thoroughly and quarantined for at least 72 hours before going home with another child. Where possible, we will send home different books but I hope you understand that we do not have an endless supply and books are costly. Before sending home any books, I will post another video onto Madley TV with more details.

Lunchtime

Next week, we will start to share lunch together in school. You should have ordered your child's dinner or you have opted for your child to have a packed lunch. Our class will be the only class to eat their lunch in the hall (at the moment the rest of the school eat their lunch in their classrooms) and the children will all sit together. The children will never be forced to eat something they don't like but we will encourage them to eat as much as possible.

Fruit update

In the last video, I shared that we were unsure when the fruit would start again but this week we have had our first few deliveries. As the days are long, we are still going to aim to have two snacks a day. Therefore, we would love if you would be able to continue to provide one small snack and the other snack will be provided in school.

This only needs to be a small snack as the children will also now be staying for lunch and they will have the option of milk too.

Dropping off and picking up

As our whole class will be together next week, the beginning and end of the day will be a lot busier. Please continue to head towards our doors to collect your child/children to help the queue flow quickly. Please remember if it is not someone who regularly collects from school that you need to inform us who that will be via email or telephone. We will not let your child go with someone if we have not been informed.

Where my wellies take me...

We have started to talk about where we would like our wellies to take us and the adventures we would like to have. The children had lots of ideas about things they would like to learn about with two main themes coming through but with no clear link between them... how things grow and toys. So, we have decided that this half term we will concentrate on: how things grow, where food comes from, comparing food, healthy and unhealthy food, the journey of food and how some items of food are made. Then after half term we will head in a different direction and start to learn about: how toys are made, different materials toys are made from, old and new toys, old games, board games etc. All of the ideas are generated by the children and we will try our best to answer as many questions possible.

Thank you for your continued communication and support over the past weeks. Over the next few weeks, I will be in contact to discuss how your child has settled into school.

We have had a fantastic start to our year together and we look forward to all of the adventures we are going to share together.

Miss Paton