

Curriculum update

1/10/21

We have had a busy few weeks since all joining as a class. The children have experienced lots of new things such as: going on the minibus, having lunch in the hall, PE lessons together, Irish dancing and much more. The children have been working hard to become more independent in the classroom and it has been great to see them participating in our challenge by getting dressed at home. We have talked about this not just being 'to get a merit' but being able to show that we can be independent and do things by ourselves. There will be a new challenge for this week and thank you for sending in pictures and videos, the children loved sharing them in the classroom with their friends.

Growing

We have been thinking about how things grow and change over time. We have looked at different fruits, vegetables and plants to find out whether they grow in this country and if they grow above the ground or below the ground. The children have shown great understanding about the different parts of plants and how seeds change. We are hoping to plant some bulbs and seeds around school so if you have any spare we would be extremely grateful as we can fill the planters.

Values in action

As I'm sure you are aware, we are a values based school. This is an integral part of our day to day conversations and actions, not just for the children but for us the adults too. We strive to model to the children how to approach certain situations in order to achieve the best outcome. This includes the language we use with the children and we are consistently talking about making the 'right choice' and reflecting upon decisions and actions that have been made. Through using our values, we hope it encourages children to make the 'right choice' not to get a merit or a values sticker but simply because it's the right thing to do. When the children are sharing things with you at home, we hope that you support us with this and encourage the children to reflect on their values of 'kindness' 'friendship' 'respect' 'resilience' 'trust' and so many more to help determine if it was the right or wrong choice. We know that the children will often come home and share lots of things, some true and some highly fabricated (they are 4 and 5, storytelling is one of our favourite things to do) but if you are ever concerned or worried please ring or email. Our aim is to encourage the children to be as independent as possible with their values at the heart of everything they do.



Forest School

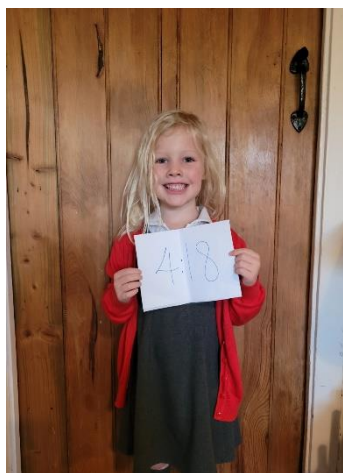
On Monday, we will be visiting a local farm in our Forest School time. The children need to be in Forest School clothes as normal but please consider the weather and that it may be muddy. If it is really wet we will stay on-site for Forest School, fingers crossed for a fairly dry day so we can go as planned. As the weather is getting colder, please send in extra layers and your child should have their coat in school everyday. We can always add layers in the afternoon before we go so please put things in their bags and make your child aware that they are in there. There have been times that a child has said "I don't have a coat" and when we look we have found it in their bag but they didn't know it was in there.



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Independent challenge

This week's independent challenge is to have a go at zipping/fastening your own coat. Try your best to do up your zip, fasten the buttons and push together the velcro to complete the challenge. Send in a photo or video of you trying your best. Remember this isn't something to just do once, it's something we can keep practising so that we can become more independent at school but also at home too. Please send your photos and/or videos into admin@madley.hereford.sch.uk.



Reading and phonics

As we start to begin our phonics sessions, you may notice that your child will bring home a box with letters in or books with games such as 'I spy'. We all start on books with no words in order to encourage story telling and develop language. As we begin to learn our phonics sounds, this will allow us to take the next step in recognising our sounds within words. Please remember that all children make progress in their own time so please don't worry if your child doesn't have a book with words straight away as we will introduce these really slowly. When you are reading at home, please remember to record your 'reads' in the reading record book so that we can count them up towards your child's 40 reads. When your child reaches 40 reads then they will be able to choose a special brand new book from school to keep.



PE kit and uniform

We are finding that there are lots of clothes without any names in which makes it extremely hard to get them back to the right owner. Please make sure everything is named as this makes changing for PE a lot easier. If your child is not able to recognise their name, please use a label that has an icon/picture on to help them recognise that something belongs to them. It is really important that the children are responsible for their own things and don't rely on us to look for everything (I'm sure you can imagine what changing for PE looks like when we have numerous items that aren't named). Thank you!

