

Reception Class - CURRICULUM UPDATE

November 2024

Welcome Back

We hope you all enjoyed the half term break. It has been lovely hearing all the children's news and learning about their experiences outside of school. Our new theme is *The Spirit of Christmas*, and the children continue to be very interested in seasonal changes from the start of school at the end of Summer through Autumn and now into Winter.

Parents Evening

Thank you for coming to share your child/children's learning and discussing their start at Madley Primary School. We hope you enjoyed looking at their Learning Journey as well as the learning environment which has evolved alongside the class and their interests, and developmental needs.

Independent challenge

To help to support our lunchtime routine we would like you to encourage the children to use a knife and fork correctly and eat their food appropriately. In school, we expect the children to cut their own food and then scrape their plate when they have finished. This can be a hard task depending on what they have for lunch but lots of practice will help to support this. We would love to see any photos of the children completing this independent challenge at home. Or perhaps your child helps to set the table? Do they count out the knives, forks and spoons?

Reading and Phonics

We are working through our single sounds in phonics, and we have currently learnt 's' 'a' 't' 'p' 'i' 'n' 'm' 'd' 'g' 'o' 'c' 'k' 'e' as well as the Chapter 2 high frequency words. The children love identifying the lowercase and uppercase letters and spotting whether they are formed in the same way or differently. We are working hard to identify the initial sounds in words and we have also started to segment and blend CV (consonant vowel) and CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words to read them. We are focusing on sounding out each sound clearly and then blend the word to read it. Books have now started to come home with CVC words in and this can take a long time to 'crack'. Often children are confident in segmenting the sounds, but the blending is a lot trickier. Lots of practice will help the sounds to become clearer and eventually the blend to happen.

Values in action

As 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 as adults too. We strive to model to the children how to approach certain situations 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 their words and actions. Our aim is to encourage the children to be as independent as possible with their values at the heart of everything they do.

Winter Clothing

As the temperature begins to drop, please ensure your child/children come to school wearing appropriate layers of clothing in readiness to embrace indoor and outdoor opportunities, for example, leggings, tights, long socks, extra socks, vests and long-sleeved tops. Please do continue to encourage independence with zips, buttons and shoes, and if possible, please attach gloves to elastic or yarn/wool and thread these through the sleeves of your child's coat. Thank you.

Maths

In Maths, we have been working to develop our number knowledge of numbers 1-5. We have been finding lots of different ways to make the numbers and what the number actually looks like. The children have been practising their skill of subitising to be able to say what they can see and how they can see it. We are trying to understand what the number looks like without needing to count. When playing with numbers at home, ask your child, "What can you see and how do you see it?" This could be in any situation, but the objects need to be static. It could be on their plate at dinner time being able to say they can see two sausages side by side.

In class we have also been introducing the concept of tallying, for example, using the lunch menu to count how many friends are having jacket potatoes, pasta, a sandwich or packed lunch. We have also used our end of the day routine to count how many friends travel by bus, wait for their siblings/cousins or go to after school club.

Class Bear

We would like to introduce you all to our class bear who will share adventures with your child for the weekend. All the children will share an adventure with our bear over the coming year. The bear is kitted out with lots of different outfits as well as a special diary for you to add to and share your adventures. The children will then share their adventures with their friends in the classroom.

Marvellous Me

Additionally, the children will each have an opportunity to share up to ten special items from home that they feel best represent themselves. These can be objects, certificates and/or pictures. They will place these in the 'Marvellous Me' box and present them in class where their friends will think of questions to ask in the form of a 'see think wonder' response.

Dates For Your Diary

This is always an extremely busy time of year with lots of exciting plans and festive celebrations.

Friday 6th December - **Christmas Fete** from 3:30-5pm

Thursday 12th December - **Curriculum Visit** to Longlands

Wednesday 18th December - **Whole School Nativity** in Madley Church at 6:30pm

Friday 20th December - **Christmas Disco** - 6-8pm

The dates for the whole school Christmas Lunch and Class Party are yet to be confirmed. We may ask you to supply some food or make a contribution towards the party, but we will share this with you as soon as possible. Traditionally we share the party with Year 1.