

Curriculum update

20/9/24

Welcome to Year One

A warm welcome to Year One everybody! We have thoroughly enjoyed our first few weeks together, getting to know one another and settling into a new routine. The children have loved exploring the classroom and the outdoor area and having lots of new toys and resources to use and play with.

We have been blown away by their independence when coming into school in the morning and how they take responsibility for their belongings. The children's trays are slightly smaller than they were last year, so we are encouraging them to use their pegs more too. If you know they have an extra bag do please let us know so we can store it.

Phonics Shed and Spelling Shed

The children should now have their spelling Shed log ins stuck inside the front cover of their yellow reading diaries. Please log on to Spelling Shed this week and have a look at the Phonics Shed and Spelling Shed assignments that have been set for the children for this week. There are 3 phonics games and 1 spelling assignment set for this week which will help to consolidate previous learning. The assignments run from Friday to Friday.

Each week we will look at the league tables, which identify the children who are completing the homework tasks on Phonics Shed and Spelling Shed. The top three children from each year group are given merits in our whole school assembly on Friday mornings and the winner receives a small trophy to keep for the week in their classroom. To be in with a chance to win, the assignments must be completed, and the children could always look back at previous sounds covered during their Reception year and play some extra games to gain extra points. On the Phonics Shed area, please do not go beyond the 'ure' sound yet as we have not taught the sounds beyond that point yet!

Reading and Phonics

You may notice that the children's names are on a clipboard in the morning and this is to remind them to bring their books in for a grown up. The children are on a reading rota where their books will be changed twice a week. We also take any extra opportunities to read with the children and change books too so there may be occasions when it will be more than twice. We are also re-capping some reading books to make sure the children's knowledge is secure and to help to give them confidence when reading so please don't worry if you have a book that you have had previously.

We have begun a re-cap of the phonics sounds that they have learned in Reception. These are single sounds and also digraphs which are sounds made up of two letters e.g 'ch' 'sh' 'ar'. We will then begin to learn alternate sounds, for example 'ai' 'ay' and 'a_e' all making the same sound. We have been doing lots of practice of segmenting and blending to be able to read new words.

Science

This term we are learning all about animals. We have begun by identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We have been looking at the features of different animals and comparing and sorting them and deciding how we could group them.

We will be going on to identify and name common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and we will be talking about and comparing the structure of common animals. We will also identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

PE

In PE we have been developing our gross motor and fundamental skills. We have started by thinking about different ways that we can move in PE, such as: skipping, hopping, running, tip-toeing and marching. We have then used these different ways to change the speed and direction.

The children have also been thinking about ways to move objects in PE. We have started by rolling and throwing. The children enjoyed playing games which involved rolling a ball for their partner and being able to stop it with two hands and then one hand. We have also been practising throwing into a specific target and getting our feet into the 'ready' position. We have enjoyed playing lots of target games and will continue to develop this further!

Maths

In Maths, we are revisiting number knowledge this term. We have been practising counting forwards and backwards to 10 ensuring deep number knowledge. We have been enjoying playing games such as: hopscotch, ten green bottles, snakes and ladders and matching games. These games are helping to build number sense so that they can identify number facts easily, such as one more and one less.

The children have also been working hard on number formation and matching numerals to the written word. The children are gaining confidence when using resources independently to help them to check if their numbers are formed correctly.

Going Wild!

Our theme this term is 'Going Wild' which is focused upon different types of animals. We are focusing on different groups of animals each week with lots of links across our curriculum areas including: English, Science, Art, Music, History and Geography. We began our theme with a delivery of a special letter asking if we can gain some animal knowledge and work towards becoming 'Zookeepers.' Each week we are gaining lots more knowledge and having lots of fun too!

We started by thinking about nocturnal animals and shared the story 'Owl Babies', a story that lots of the children were familiar with. We enjoyed re-telling the story and recording a list of nocturnal animals. This week, we have been thinking about animals that are found in colder climates. We have been using BBC documentaries and narrating them ourselves and building sentences about what we have seen. This has led us to think about animals that are endangered and why they have become endangered. The children have demonstrated care and concern about endangered animals, and we have used maps to identify where different endangered animals are located. We are planning to continue to find out about different types of animals and have some exciting Curriculum Visits planned that will link with this too!

