

Curriculum update

Welcome back!

Welcome back everybody! Not quite the way we saw the year starting but I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year. Thank you for your patience this week as we have got Seesaw up and running. Through the app, I am able to see who logs on and keep a track of what work is being completed. We know that there may be difficult days and times where not everything is completed but we are strongly encouraging that you complete as much as you can. This week has been a trial to see how things work and what works best. I am really proud of how everyone has engaged and the work that is being done at home! You are all doing a fantastic job (grown-ups included). There hasn't been much time to prepare for this so we know there may be things you don't have.

Please don't rush online (or to the supermarket) to order lots of things, I am going to try my best to make sure anything we do is using things from home and if we are making something I will let you know in advance in case there is anything you need to buy.

There will be a range of activities shared on Seesaw throughout the week but there will always be daily: literacy, maths, handwriting and phonics. Please remember, there will be good and bad days and we are all just trying our best and most importantly your best is good enough! The most important thing is that your children are: happy, healthy and safe - any learning that takes place will follow this.

Weekly timetable

These are in addition to our daily activities.

Monday	Expressive Art & Design
Tuesday	Theme and PE
Wednesday	Forest School
Thursday	Irish dancing/PE and PSED
Friday	Music and Understanding the World

Literacy

Literacy can be harder to support and all children will be at different stages of development in their writing. Letter formation is extremely important, so please can I ask that if you're modelling writing that you use lower case letters unless it's the start of a sentence or a name. At this stage in our learning, we are concentrating on writing words phonetically and not spelt correctly. Although it is important for some words to be spelt correctly, 80% of their writing should be phonetic e.g when writing 'police man' it might look like this 'polees man' because those are some of the sounds that can be heard. It's important children are exposed to the correct spelling but the skills of sounding out the children will use both in reading and writing. Please don't worry if every aspect of the Literacy activities aren't completed, try to encourage as much recording as possible but you can always use sound cards (home-made) and magnetic letters.

Phonics

Phonics will continue to be taught through videos with a few activities to re-cap alongside. The plan of teaching phonics will be:

Monday – a new sound to be taught via video

Tuesday – sound to be re-capped through an activity

Wednesday – a new sound to be taught via video

Thursday – sound to be re-capped through an activity

Friday – a new tricky word to be taught via video

We are going to learn two new sounds a week and one tricky word each week. These will be done through videos then re-capped the following day. On a re-cap day it is important to re-watch the video from the day before. Phonics is all about repetition, the more the children: see, hear, say and practice the sounds the more familiar they become with them and therefore they more likely they are to remember them. Phonics is very repetitive and now we are moving onto two letters making one sound, it is important to not do too many sounds to avoid confusion.

Theme

Our theme this term is 'To the Rescue'. The children had lots of questions about: the emergency services, emergency vehicles, who will help them if they're stuck, who help them if they are in trouble or need help and lots more. We are going to try our best to answer as many of these questions as possible. We are going to focus on different emergency services across the next few weeks. An update like this will be provided each week outlining what the week will consist of.

A really important part of our learning is play! Children learn through play and its where they have the opportunity to re-enact what they have seen and heard making links to old and new learning. Within our activities there are so many opportunities to learn through play, which is why I aim to make the activities as practical as possible. I am trying to ensure that the children aren't sat in front of the screen all day and aim to get a balance between screen time and practical activities.

Maths

There will be videos to watch linked to our White Rose Maths learning, I will link the videos each day and there will be an activity to follow after to further skills. We follow the sequence of teaching in the classroom so will continue from where we had finished before Christmas. Similarly to phonics, the videos are repetitive to ensure that skills are embedded and practiced.

This week we are deepening our knowledge of 5 by exploring: addition, subtraction, subitising, using a 5 frame and partitioning 5.