









Foundation Stage News

Welcome back after the Easter Break. We have been looking forward to the summer term and know the children will enjoy the topics planned for them. This half term our class topic is 'On the Move' and the second half-term our topic is 'At the seaside'. As part of our topic we will be visiting Dell Quay on July 4th.

Our learning journey

In the Foundation Stage, we believe that the best way to engage children fully in their learning is to be flexible and allow them to have control over the directions in which their learning journey takes them. Your children's interests led to some very exciting learning last term, with activities about 'People Who Help Us' and Farming.

Our Allotment Garden

We have already planted tomatoes, sweetcorn, potatoes and pumpkins seeds and this term the children will also be sewing beans, carrots, radishes, ,sweet peas and many other flowers and vegetables. The children will spend a lot of time outside in our garden, looking after the flowers and vegetables, watering, looking at insects, examining, using their senses - these are all lasting childhood experiences. It looks like a very busy term!!

Below we have outlined some of the topics we hope to cover during the first half-term.

Communication Language and Literacy

We will be looking at poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts. Our texts will include 'Mrs. Armitage on Wheels', 'The Magical Bicycle', and ' Oi, Get Off My Train'. We are also looking at some wonderful new picture books that we have not used before –'Journey' by Aaron Becker and 'Through the Magic Mirror' by Anthony Brown.

In non-fiction we will be thinking about how machines move. We will focus on the actions and noises made by a variety of machines and the children will be encouraged to write simple descriptions of machines. We will be asking the children to bring in their own bicycles, scooters etc. and they will take photographs of them and label the various parts.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will be finding out how machines can help us in everyday life, while learning how to be safe around them. Imagining what it is like to be in a wheelchair. Going on a walk and discussing safety issues around machines.

R.E.

In R.E. we will be looking at the special friends of Jesus, the disciples and the stories that relate to them in the Bible.

Expressive Arts and Design

Using junk materials the children will be making their own machines. We will discuss the fact that many machines make life easier for us. The children will be invited to make their own make-believe machine and for this we will need lots of sturdy washing machine and dish-washer machine tablets boxes, so please keep saving.

Our wall story will feature a book entitled 'Choose your own journey' by Susie Brooks and Tracy Cottingham. The children will also be making their own observational drawings of bicycles.

Mathematical development

The children will be creating a weighbridge for their toy trucks. Weighing their trucks and comparing their trucks with each other to see whose truck is heavier or lighter. Children will be invited to be machine operators who need some parts to repair their machines. They will be counting the number of nuts and bolts needed and encouraged to use the correct vocabulary such as 'add' or 'take away'. Positional language will be modelled when the children play with the remote control cars and direct each other as 'human machines'.

Understanding of the World

We use our outdoor environment all year round but we will continue our Forest School sessions on Wednesday .U.K. and Austria so enjoy their special time around the camp-fire and are now familiar with our routines We will be making charcoal, boiling our kettle of hot water for cocoa, making various items out of wood and learning how to use basic tools. **U.K. class will need their oldest jeans and long sleeved tee-shirts each week!** **We like everyone to wear a hat whenever they play outside in the sun**.

As part of our topic 'On the Move' we will be investigating how everyday machines are powered and used. Under this heading we will also be thinking about the history of machines and inviting a grandparent in to talk about how kitchen machines have changed over the past fifty years.

Physical Development

This term we will be swimming once a week – on Tuesday morning. The children will need a towel and a swimming hat if their hair is shoulder length. Please apply sun cream at home in the morning as it cannot be used prior to swimming- the cream plays havoc with the pool's filter system!! Verruca socks must be worn in the pool if your child has this contagious infection - they can be purchased from the pharmacy.

Reading Books

Please continue to hear words from orange books that we are introducing this term. The children are making such fantastic progress, please support your child with this.

If possible please try and hear your child read at least three times a week. Demonstration is the best way to teach underlying concepts about reading and writing. Read posters, letters, magazines. Try to take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate how and why adults read. Share writing the shopping list, thank you letters and invitations.

Uniform

Name, Name Name.

The warm weather is nearly upon us and jumpers will be left on the field, please can you ensure that ***ALL*** your child's clothes are named. This includes PE kits, lunch boxes, jumpers and other items of school uniform – especially important as we start swimming this term.

Class Assembly

Our class assembly is scheduled for Friday 30th June It is subject to change but I will send a message out to confirm closer to the time.

Bicycles

We would be grateful if the children could bring their bicycles, Scooters or vehicles to school on Thursday 18th May. They will need to come with a safety helmet as well. This is to link with our work on bicycles.

Water Bottles

All children will need a separate water bottle which we will keep in the classroom. The children have frequent water breaks during the warmer weather!

If you have any other questions or queries please do not hesitate to come and find us.

The Foundation Stage Team