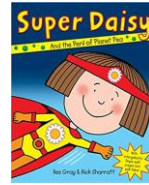


# Foundation Stage News - First Half of Spring Term



Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. We hope you all had a busy but enjoyable Christmas break and are looking forward to the year ahead. The children have settled back to school life this week and are eager to share their Christmas experiences with us.

In the Foundation Stage the curriculum is very much shaped around the children's current interests and through this we aim to develop the key skills the children require to learn and develop. The basis for our future learning in the first half of the term will be 'Caring, Sharing and Daring'- people who help us and how we can help the environment!! Through this topic we will plan opportunities for the children to develop the skills outlined below and many more as they become immersed in the topic. We will be reading 'Ten Things I can do to help my world', 'People who help' us and 'Super Daisy' by Nick Sharratt'.

## Understanding of the World

Feeding birds is very rewarding and will bring nature closer to the children, inspiring care and environmental awareness. We will be taking part in 'The Big Schools Bird Watch'. U.K. and Austria will be busy at work counting birds, making recycled bird feeders, and using this as part of science, numeracy and literacy activities. This term we will be going to the park to look at how the trees and plants change this season.

We have lots of ideas and these are just some of the topics we will be focussing on.

## Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to help the children to become more mindful of each other and to increase their awareness of their own personal power: developing understanding of their power to choose how to behave.

They will have opportunities to explore the positive feelings of belonging and feeling cared for. They will explore how they can hurt people's feelings and how they might feel hurt or uncared for.

## RE

We will be reading some of the stories from the Old Testament starting with Noah. We will use the stories as a vehicle for discussing the concepts of obedience, humility and the making and keeping of promises.

## Expressive Art and Design

We will be looking at and feeling textures as well as talking about them - rough, smooth, shiny, soft hard. Please talk about textures with your child and explore the world around them, for example; pebbles, mud, egg boxes, bubble wrap, foil, gravel, grass. The children will also be encouraged to find ways of joining materials to construct their own models by reusing everyday junk boxes, tubes and cartons.

## Mathematical development

In our Mathematics sessions we shall continue to develop our number recognition and counting skills. We will be learning how to write and order numbers from 1 to 20. As well as finding one more or one less than a given number. We will also be solving some simple addition and subtraction calculations through practical activities. Using mathematical language to describe size and capacity and investigating how we can measure time and order the events of our school day.

## Communication Language and Literacy

Reading ... at home and at school

It is brilliant that so many children are reading on a regular basis! Please can you fill in the reading diary every time your child has shared a book, magazine, library book, played a game with their key words or read other print with an adult. A brief comment makes us aware of their learning at home. Regular reading at home supports the reading your child does in school. It enables them to practise their letter sounds and word blending skills. This helps develop writing skills as children become familiar with the spellings of keywords and the way in which texts are structured. We aim to listen to all children read at least four times a week in school, this may be as a whole class/small groups or individuals, some weeks we may manage more than this. As we are sure you can appreciate in order to allow us to give every child the time they deserve this is extremely time consuming. It is for this reason we are extremely grateful for all your support in hearing your child read at home.

## Writing

We like to encourage the children to write, paint, or draw and talk about their work. Please take the time to listen to your children talking about their work. It is important that they feel their work is valued. Please model correct use of capital letters when writing with your child at home - beginning of names and sentences only.

## Physical Development

In PE lessons the children will be developing gymnastic skills. Please ensure that your child has a named kit and plimsolls in school at all times. We may not have a P.E session in the hall each week, our new slot is a Thursday afternoon but we may use this for other activities such as music too. As with other areas of the curriculum, we will teach and develop skills as the children demonstrate a need to develop them further. Many of their physical skills will be developed in our carefully designed Outdoor Learning Environment.

## Forest School

Forest School will start on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Please sign up for sessions on the letter sent at the beginning of the week.

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

## Starting Points

The activities suggested above are meant just as a starting point; a bank of ideas to get the term started. The ideas of the children will probably take our learning down different but just as valid, paths. Mrs. Callender and I go with the interests of the children and develop their passions and knowledge.

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Forest School starts

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Class photo day, NO Forest School

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February - INSET DAY

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> - Fri 16<sup>th</sup> February Half-Term

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Trip to Pulborough Brooks, Drivers/Helpers will be needed

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March - World Book Day (Dress up as a character from a book)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March - UK Ingfield, Austria NO Forest school

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March - grounds working party, more details nearer the time

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Austria Ingfield. Drivers/Helpers will be needed

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Austria Stablebarn Farm, Drivers/Helpers will be needed

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> (3.30-6.30pm) and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> (6-8.30pm) - Parents evenings

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April - 9am Easter Eucharist, Easter Eggstravaganza (Easter Bonnet Competition), Last day of the Term.