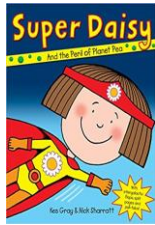
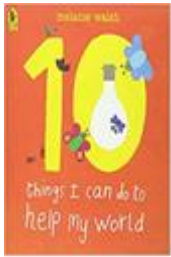


Foundation Stage News - First Half of Spring Term



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 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 junk models.

Mathematical development

In our Mathematic 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, 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 can be extremely time consuming. 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.

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. 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 17th 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. Huntley-Hart and I go with the interests of the children and develop their passions and knowledge.

Dates for your Diary

February 7th - Class Photograph - no Forest School session

February 21st - Visit to Pulborough Brooks

March 7th - Forest School session at Ingfield Manor School

L. Callender - Early Years Coordinator