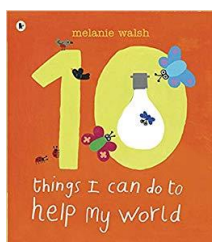




U.K. & Austria Class Spring Term 2020



Welcome back to an exciting term in 2020. We hope that you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you the best for the New Year. Thank you very much for the kind gifts, cards from you and your families.

A very exciting aspect of our work in the Foundation Stage is 'working from the children's interests' alongside our planned themes. This means we are flexible in our planning and allow the children to influence the direction a theme takes. We do this through questioning and observations, especially at the beginning of a topic, which gives us a sense of what the children already know and what they are interested in finding out. We underpin their interests with a deep understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile which details the skills they should develop before moving into year one.

We link these skills and objectives to what fascinates the children as well as topical things that occur throughout the year. This exciting method of teaching means that it is impossible to plan future weeks in great detail.

This is a brief insight into the learning that will take place during the first few weeks of the Spring Term. As the term and the topics unravel, we will find that the children will lead the learning in exciting directions.

Communication Language and Literacy

Our Literacy curriculum is being driven by high quality texts - 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett and 'Ten Things' by Melanie Walsh. We will be planning exciting reading and writing activities around this text such as creating our own books, making eco posters, labelling trees and writing instructions on how to keep our environment tidy. These books should help to stimulate the children's imagination for creative ideas and role-play.

The children will be encouraged to use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences, explore and experiment with sounds, words and texts.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will be continuing with weekly circle times, following our nurture programme. We will also be discussing how it is important to keep our environment tidy, linking to our key text. We will talk about the things we are good at and the things that make us unique and develop ways to solve problems when they arise. The children will be encouraged to explore feelings and experiences.

We will be choosing our 'person of the week' every Monday and learning to ask questions to find out more about them.

RE

Each day the children will take part in Collective Worship. On Friday there is a 'show and tell' assembly and this term U.K. and Austria will have their turn!

Christians believe Jesus brings good news for all people. For Christians, this good news includes being loved by God, and being forgiven for bad things. Christians believe Jesus is a friend to the poor and friendless. Christians believe Jesus' teachings make people think hard about how to live and show them the right way. We will tell stories from the Bible and encourage the children to ask questions and explore ideas.

Understanding the World

There will be lots of opportunity for the children to make sense of their physical world through our weekly visits to Forest School. Access to the outside learning area is provided to the children on a daily basis. Here they have the opportunity to explore on a larger scale with the Mud Kitchen, the stage and dressing up box, a large construction area, water play and sand, bikes and scooters, as well as a gardening and digging area.

We are taking part in the world's biggest birdwatch, run every year in January and February, 'Big Schools Birdwatch' which is a free activity for schools throughout the UK. We will be making our own fat balls and cake mix to attract the birds to our garden.

Physical Development

Children access a variety of physical activities throughout the week. All foundation stage children have access to the outside equipment daily. In order for children to use these activities safely it is important they are dressed appropriately and are wearing suitable footwear.

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive, and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. For example:

- Practise using a pencil with the correct grasp.
- Practise using scissors for cutting along lines.
- Make dens and shelters.
- Set up obstacle trails with boxes, tunnels and planks.
- Cook on the fire pit.
- Practising putting their coat and shoes on independently.
- Play with mud in various forms, making prints, pies.
- Play outdoors in windy and rainy weather.
- Explore moving like different polar animals.
- Winter playdough activities.

Dough Disco - The children in Reception have continued to take part in Dough Disco. This is an exercise for the fingers to improve fine motor control. Every day they join in with Dough Disco in which they manipulate play dough in specific ways to their favourite tunes. The children get very excited when it is Dough Disco time and concentrate hard to follow the rolling, squishing and finger diving in time with the music. The technique aims to strengthen muscles in their hands which are the last to develop. These exercises to strengthen muscles will support the children with their writing.

Expressive Art and Design

Expressive arts and design involves supporting children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role play, and design and technology.

- Will create with a purpose for example, using a box and tissue paper to create a dog bed.
- Will be able to choose the tools and materials they will need to create for example, scissors and sticky tape.
- Will be experiment with songs, dancing and musical instruments to create and change.
- Will be able to develop stories with others and use props to support their play.
- Will be able to represent their ideas in different ways using roleplay, toys, drawing and materials such as paint and clay.

Mathematics

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.

We have a variety of resources such as beads, buttons, counters, fir cones, leaves, marbles, stones, interlocking cubes, coins, clothes pegs, small world toys ... the list is endless and of course children themselves will make their own collections. Children will be drawn to these items for all sorts of different reasons, the adults in the class recognise the mathematical potential in play activities and draw this out through skilful questioning.

We do a lot of counting, sorting and organising groups of real objects in class, sometimes involving larger numbers. Children will learn to **count in 2s, 5s and 10s**. This is taught in a physically active way at school, so when counting in 5s they are told to put five fingers in the air with each count, reinforcing how many they are actually counting on.

At home you could help by saying number names in counting everyday objects (touching each object and saying one number name for each). **Point out numbers in real-life situations** so they can gain an awareness of how they are always present in our world: prices in a supermarket, numbers on packaging, road signs, number plates... digits are literally everywhere you look and helping your child recognise this can help them to understand their significance and meaning in different contexts.

Playing board games like **snakes and ladders** can help children learn to count accurately and steadily. It's also good for them to become accustomed to the dotted patterns on dice and dominoes, resources often used during maths lessons in our class.

Reading

Over the term we will be helping children to develop their reading and writing skills by continuing with our daily phonics activities. The children are beginning to learn how to identify sounds in words and how to segment or blend them. You can help at home by completing phonics homework and by reading as often as possible with your child.

The children are now taking part in daily guided reading and guided writing activities where they are developing their reading and writing skills in small groups.

Reading Books

We will do our best to read with your child at least once a week and write in their logbook. Please ensure that you read with your child as often as possible. It is a fantastic way of communicating between home and school. I know that everyone is enjoying our 'Songbird' reading books.

General Information

'Did You Know' sheets have been a big success this year and the children thoroughly enjoy sharing their achievements with the rest of the class. If you would like any extra sheets, please ask a member of staff.

Please remember to put your child name on EVERY item of uniform (including plimsolls). If some of your child's uniform goes missing we have a much greater chance of returning to you if a name is clearly printed on it.

We see your child's continuing learning journey as a partnership between yourselves as parents/carers, and us in school. If you have any questions about the class structure or curriculum, or any areas of concern with your child or their learning please feel free to discuss these with us. If any parents would like to volunteer their help in school and listen to some children read or help with our Forest School sessions we would be very appreciative of your support. If this is something you would be interested in doing please speak to Mrs. Callender or Mrs. Huntley-Hart and we can arrange for a DBS check to be carried out and discuss which times you would be able to offer your support.

Class Assembly

Austria class assembly is scheduled for Friday March 27th.

UK class assembly is scheduled for Friday April 3rd

It is subject to change but I will send out a letter to confirm closer to the time.

Forest School

We intend to carry on with Forest School activities every Wednesday - weather permitting! A list of dates has been sent home.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15th January - Forest School begins.

Tuesday 21st January - Film night for Reception.

Weds 22nd January - Walk to Pocket Park.

Tuesday 10th March - U.K. 'Lambing Live'

Thursday 12th March - Austria 'Lambing Live' at Stable Barn Farm.

Wednesday 1st April - U.K. and Austria visit woodland at Hurston Warren.

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

Foundation Stage team