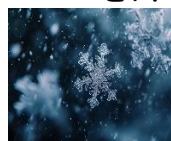




Welcome to Squirrels Class Spring Term 1



EYFS:



Our curriculum project this half term is 'Wonderful Winter'. We will explore and observe the world around us to see what magic Mother Nature has in store for us! We will use a range of adult guided activities and learning through play both indoors and outdoors to access the EYFS curriculum. We hope you all had a wonderful break over the holidays, and we can't wait to welcome the children back for another exciting half term!

Literacy

The children will continue to learn their sounds during our Read Write inc. lessons, as the term goes on we will introduce 'special friends' where two letters make one sound; such as 'ch,th,sh' etc.

We will send home links to the Read Write inc. virtual classroom videos. Please watch these with your child to help reinforce their phonics learning at home. We will continue to send home sound blending books, we ask that you read these with your child everyday and record this in their reading diaries.

When learning through play, the children will have a wide range of opportunities for mark making where they can apply their newly learnt sounds and begin to write these in words. We will also be working on forming these letters correctly.

Communication and Language

As part of our Wonderful Winter topic, we will be sharing a range of stories, both fiction and non-fiction. These books will be available in our book corner for the children to re-read and retell to their friends.

We will also be exposing the children to lots of new language during our 'Talk through Stories' sessions. We will make you aware of the Key Vocabulary for that week- we'd love to hear how you can use the words at home.

Personal Social Emotional Development

The children are all so settled and happy to be at school. They are familiar with the daily routines, confident to ask for help when needed and demonstrate good listening skills. This term we will continue to promote talking in full sentences and continue to develop the children's self-awareness and independence. Please encourage your child to do up zips and buttons on coats and practise putting their own gloves on.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will continue to have opportunities to develop a storyline in their own play through the use of our role play area which will be transformed into an Airport so they can jet off to the South Pole.

There will also be lots of opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom to get creative! This is an area the children all love and it's wonderful to see the collaborative learning that takes place when creating their masterpieces!

Mathematics

In Maths we will build on the children's previous experiences of number. We will continue to develop the skill of subitising (knowing a number without counting each object) and further embed their counting skills. We will explore the composition of numbers to 10 compare sets of objects using language such as more and less. We will be working hard on our number formation- this is something we'd be grateful if you can practise at home.

When learning through play, the children will have a wide range of opportunities to explore numbers in the environment. We will sing maths songs such as 10 green bottles, play games such as bingo and use resources such as Numicon to develop counting accurately.

Physical Development

When learning through play, the children will have access to a range of opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills.

We will be using a range of sensory items such as aqua beads and equipment such as pipettes and tweezers to help strengthen our fingers.

We will be using the bikes, large construction blocks and climbing equipment to strengthen our upper bodies. The children will also be going to Witham Hall for their PE this term and have use of their gym equipment.

Understanding the World

We will continue to observe the changing seasons and look at how this impacts the natural world around them. We have already experienced a bit of snow.. I wonder if we will get anymore?! Our Key Texts for this term are Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers and The Emperors Egg. Both texts explore animals in the South Pole. We will compare these animals to animals in our gardens. We will also be using clips from David Attenborough's Frozen Planet.

Other Notes:

PE this term is on Thursday morning at Witham Hall. Please remember children will need to come to school wearing their kit.

Forest school takes place on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure your child has adequate outdoor clothing and footwear.

Reading: Please share books with your child on a regular basis at home, we will send home a reading for pleasure book for you to read alongside a sound blending book. Please ensure you bring your books to school each day. We will upload phonics videos on Tapestry for you to share at home.

Tapestry: We will document your child's learning on Tapestry. We love to see what you have been up to at home as this helps us to build up an overall learning journey for your child. Please upload experiences from home so we can talk to your child about this at school.

Year 1 and 2:



Our curriculum project this half term is **'Castles and Dragons'**. We will be looking at Medieval castles and will discuss their main features and purposes. We will also explore the job roles within a Medieval castle and compare these to jobs today. Within Science our topic will be 'Everyday Materials' and we will think about the materials that were used when building the different components of a castle.

English

The children will continue to access a range of reading and writing opportunities during their Read, Write Inc. phonics lessons. We will send home links to the Read Write inc. virtual classroom videos. Please watch these with your child to help reinforce their phonics learning at home.

Please note that when assessing the children last half term, an area for development for all is the fluency at which the children read. This improves with practise, as such please ensure you are reading with your child for 5 minutes everyday and recording this in their reading diaries.

We will also be exposing the children to lots of new language during our 'Talk through Stories' sessions. We will make you aware of the Key Vocabulary for that week- we'd love to hear how you can use the words at home.

Spellings: The Year 1 and 2 common exception words were sent home at parents evening. Please continue to practice reading and writing these.

Science – Everyday Materials

- Identify, name and label everyday materials.
- Describe simple properties of each material.
- Discuss and compare different materials and properties.
- Select materials for a specific purpose .

History

We will be exploring life in Medieval times! We will be looking at a range of castles, their main features and purposes. We will think about how castles were designed and fortified. We will go onto compare the job roles in a Medieval castle in comparison to the jobs in Windsor castle today!

PSHE

Working Together. We will be learning:

- Knowing our strengths, gifts and talents
- Unpick what skill we wish to develop
- Understand what makes a confident communicator
- Understand what makes a community champion
- Apply communication and teamwork skills

PE

This term we are lucky enough to be going to Witham Hall school for our PE sessions. We will focus on developing a range of multi skills.

Maths

Children will develop their skills and concept of:

- place value (within 100)
- estimating on a number line
- comparing and ordering objects and numbers
- exploring properties of 2D and 3D shapes

There will not be a weekly Maths homework task in KS1. However, please continue to work on quick recall of number bonds to 10 and then 20. E.g. $1+9 = 10$, $2 + 8 = 10$, $3 + 7 = 10$ etc. We will be using an online game called 'hit the button' on Topmarks, this is a website that you can also access at home on a laptop or tablet. Please also continue to work on the quick recall of doubles up to 10.

Art

We are going to be exploring the work of artist Piet Mondrian. We will be exploring how to mix colours and create our own colour wheel. We will discuss the idea of warm and cool colours and use these to create our own piece of artwork using circular shapes.

Geography

There is not a specific Geography focus this half term.

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Islam. We will explore the key beliefs that Muslims hold regarding Allah. We will look at the belief of Tawhid and the 99 names for Allah. We will discuss the Islamic creation story and think about what this tells us about God. We will begin to think about who Mohammad is and why he is important to Muslims.

Computing

This term our unit is Programming. We will be using the Beebots and programming them to move in specific directions. We will use the Beebots to test an algorithm and plan a route for the Beebot to take.

Other Notes:

PE this term is on Thursday morning at Witham Hall. Please remember children will need to come to school wearing their kit. **Forest school** takes place on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure your child has adequate warm outdoor clothing and footwear. Please ensure they do not come into school wearing their wellies, these need to be put on in the afternoon when we go out for Forest School to ensure mud is not brought into school.

Reading: Children will be heard reading at least once a week. Please read on a regular basis at home throughout the week and ensure you bring your books to school each day. Children will bring home the phonics book they have read in school, an additional phonics book and a reading for pleasure book.

Seesaw: We love to see what you have been up to at home as this helps us to build up an overall learning journey for your child. Please upload experiences from home so we can talk to your child about this at school.

We are looking forward to an exciting and busy Spring Term ahead!