

St Mary’s Primary School Writhlington

Welcome to Autumn Term 2 – we have a very glittery term ahead of us!



**Reading**

Thank you for your support with reading at home! It is important that you listen to your child read **every day** and record this in the reading record. Please share both the ‘Phonic’ book, and the ‘Reading for Pleasure’ books. You could also play games such as asking your child to point to a particular word on the page – keep it simple, fun, and remember to talk about the pictures too! We are also issuing some more home learning this term, called ‘Tricky Words’. You child will be bringing home a small book with a number of words in that ‘cannot be sounded out’. It is important that your child can instantly recognise, read and remember them. We will be teaching them in class, and when your child can do this securely, we move them on to a different set. When all the reception words have been learnt, we then teaching the spelling of them, which we call ‘cloud writing’. Please practise these every day, and note in the book! Thank you!

Topic

The topic for Autumn Term 2 is ***Festivities.*** We are learning about bonfire night (we already have a bonfire planned in our conservation area!) the Hindu festival of Diwali and of course, all things Christmas (too soon?!).



**Physical Development**

This term, your child is required to wear PE kits to school every Wednesday. Please ensure you provide a jumper and jogging bottoms as the weather will undoubtedly be getting colder. Wellies are continued to be required at all times in school as children have access to the field in all weathers.

Phonics

In phonics this term we are continuing to learn letter sounds, and beginning to read simple words and sentences. Please continue to practise these by using your child’s sound book at home – you have all been putting in such fantastic efforts! We will hold a ‘Phonics Workshop’ in school this term, for Parents only to demonstrate how we teach our Phonics in Little Oaks and how you can help at home with your child’s learning. Date TBA. We have attached copies of the order of sounds taught in Phonics this term.

Mathematics

We have some exciting maths activites planned this term! Almost all children achieved their KIRF (Key Instant Recall Fact) last term (counting up to 5), and we are learning a new one this term…’to be able to count up to 10’. We are aware that some children can already do this, so we will be consolidating and challenging, so that children really master this skill (such as counting forwards and back, recognising numbers, writing numbers, guessing nuimbers, subitising objects, ordering them, knowing 1 more and 1 less…the list is endless!). Please help your child to achieve their KIRF by practising at home, we have attached some ideas to help!

In our maths sessions this term, the children will begun to learn about 2D shapes. We have focused on circles, triangles and rectangles, and made rockets for our naths display, they look wonderful! The children have learnt their shape names and their properties including how many sides and corners they have. We are moving on to recognising numerals, and ensuring that children can match objects them correctly. We will share stories, such as *Pete The Cat and His Groovy Buttons* and invite children to hunt for objects that match the numbers we are learning. The children will also be learning about composition of all numbers to five this term. We can use 5s frames and part-part whole models for this. Please see the attached sKIRF heet for ideas. During this term, we will also take a look at addition and subtraction, always with practical and fun activities!

A HUGE thank you for all of the support with your child’s learning steps at home. This impacts hugely on the progress your child can make and it is an absolute pleasure seeing how many children achieve these steps each week!

Literacy

In literacy this term, we are learning and exploring the sounds of new words –the children will record themselves making firework noises, then write labels for a fantastic firework display. We will also be using the sounds that the children have learnt to write words and short sentences and captions.

The children will also participate in a range of drama activities this term, including learning and re-enacting the Diwali story, and of course acting and performing in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity performance.

The children will also share special times they have experienced themselves with their friends and family. As Christmas nears (it is inevitable!), the children will write Christmas cards - we can’t wait to see how much the children’s writing will have progressed by then!

We will be learning lots of Christmas songs instead of nursery rhymes this term and we guarantee they will get stuck in your head (they are already stuck in ours!).



Topic Sessions

In music this term, the children will be listening to and appraising a range of music, including Roll Alabama by Bellowhead, Boogie Wonderland by Earth Wind and Fire, Don’t Go Breaking My Heart by Elton John and Kiki Dee, Ganesh is Fresh by MC Yogi, and Frosty the Snowman by Ella Fitzgerald. The chidren will be learning a range of songs through our music curriculum and through learning the songs for our nativity. We are teaching the children to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, express their feelings and responses, and increasingly match pitch and follow melodies of the songs they learn.

In our outdoor learning sessions, we will be having a bonfire, and learning the rules about fire safety. This will build on the knowledge the pupils learnt during their time in Little Acorns, where they also spent a lot of time learning outside around the fire! In R.E. we will also be exploring ‘special’ places of worship, as we explore Hinduism through the Festival of Light and Christianity through Christmas.

Our focus through ‘Jigsaw’ (our school Personal, Social and Health Development programme) is ‘Celebrating Difference.’

In P.E. our focus will be on developing Fundemental skills such as: balancning, different ways of travelling and using equpiment individually and working as a team or in pairs.

Important Messages…

- Tapestry online learning journal – You are all now signed up to Tapestry and we thank you for activating your accounts. We have uploaded last term’s photos and a summary of learning that has taken place for your child. We would love it if you would also contribute to Tapestry. Please upload photos and notes, and please feel free to comment on photos and observations we share each term – we really value these contributions. At the end of the reception year, you will be able to download and store these forever, they really are to be treasured!

- Dojo – Don’t forget that you can message both teachers directly if you have any questions or queries about your child’s learning. Miss Hamblin teaches Mondays and Tuesdays (best to message Miss Hamblin on these days), and Mrs Martin teaches Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday (best to message Mrs Martin on these days!). We will also add updates and school notices on the Dojo homepage also. Any queries about ParentPay/lunches, please direct towards the school office – Mrs Fenton is an expert!

Nativity

This year’s nativity will be performed on Wednesday 14th December – there will be an afternoon performance at 2PM, and another at 6PM. For all other festive activities you need to know about, including our VERY EXCITING trip to the Pantomime in Bath, please see the main school newsletter.

**A HUGE THANK YOU**…to Effie-Mae, Rueben and Darcey’s Dad, who has come into school after all the children have gone home, to waterproof the ‘treehouse’ in Little Oaks outdoor learning area. This will hopefully make the space much more useable all year round – we cannot thank him enough!

**…and finally…**

The parent/teacher relationship is so important to the learning and development of your child and we welcome you to communicate with us either by Dojo, or during pick up/collection (mornings are usually a little busy!). We really do have the most wonderful class and we are so proud of how kind and happy they all are, and all that they have achieved so far – it is actually incredible!

Thank you for your continued support,

The Little Oaks Team ☺