



St Mary's Primary School Writhlington

Welcome back to Autumn Term 1 - we hope had a lovely summer break and we are looking forward to getting to know you all this year.

Topic

The topic for Autumn Term 1 is **All About Me**.



The children have settled in so well – we have had smiles all round! We will be spending this term getting to know each other, our new classroom and establishing class rules.

Reading

Last week we issued a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to your child. We do hope you were able to enjoy sharing it and reading with your child. Please do sign the reading record, each time you read! The children will soon be coming home with a 'Phonics' based reading book. This is for them to read as independently as they can, with your support. The Phonics based reading book is linked to our Phonics teaching in class. Initially, the books will be without words or just a few words. Sharing wordless books with your child provides a great opportunity for literacy-rich conversations. Each 'reader' listens and speaks, and creates their own story in their own words. Please commit to sharing a book with your child at least **five times a week**, or as many times as you can. Reading stimulates children's imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It also helps develop language and listening skills. **Please read with your child as often as you possibly can.** Just 10 minutes a day will really make a difference!
More on this during our Phonics meeting on Thursday 14th

PE Kits required on **FRIDAYS** this term please! The P.E. kit is: P.E. daps or trainers, a burgundy t shirt, black shorts, black cycling shorts, black leggings or black cuffed joggers
Please do label all P.E. kit.
Also- as we are using the large apparatus this term, please make sure the children's hair is tied back on a Friday.

Welcome to Little Oaks!

Staffing

Monday/Tuesday: Mrs Hallowes (Class Teacher) and Mrs Hazelton (Teaching Assistant) Mrs Langley (Teaching Assistant)

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday: Mrs Martin (Class Teacher) and Mrs Hazelton and Mrs Langley

This year, we have a small class size of just 19 children, which means adult: child ratios are very high, and all pupils will benefit from being supported closely by skilled adults. We are very impressed with the way the children are coming into class in the mornings by themselves and settling quickly. We make sure that their safety and happiness is our top priority and the children have been very willing to begin to understand and follow our class promises (rules), which are:

Be kind - Listen to the teacher and each other - Help each other to learn – Be the best you can be - Look after our toys, our classroom and all living things - Have fun!

Literacy

We will begin our topic by sharing the story '**The Colour Monster**'

This story focuses on our emotions, both recognising them and developing strategies to best deal with them.

Each week, our Literacy focus is planned around a carefully selected quality text, Fiction or Non-Fiction. The children get to know these books and stories really well and often can be heard retelling them to each other! We always encourage the children to speak to each other and the teaching staff in full sentences and we model correct grammar and explain tricky vocabulary to support the children's own language development. You can support your child by talking about the pictures in their reading book to enable the children to understand what the story will be about. This will increase their confidence to 'have a go' particularly at this early stage of reading.

Other Key Texts this term will include:

The First Rainbow

How do you feel? (Non-Fiction)

Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School

Anna Hibiscus's Song

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you Hear?

All Join In

At The Park (Non-Fiction)

Mathematics

Each term, we focus on an important Maths skill, called a **Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRF)**. We work on these at least 5 times a week, so all pupils 'master' these important skills. This term's **KIRF** is: **to say numbers in order to 5**. This also includes being able to count backwards, order and count on and back from any given number to 5. In maths sessions this term, we will spend time getting to know numbers and becoming more secure with counting. This includes matching and sorting shapes and symbols, and discussing why objects are matched and sorted in a certain way. We will also learn to compare quantities, and begin to use the terms 'more', 'less', 'fewer', and 'equal'. Later in the term, we will be learning about patterns (fruit kebabs often make an appearance here!) and we will begin to look at numerals. In the last few weeks, we will be learning all about 'subitising', which is the skill of being able to instantly recognise quantities, such as when we roll a dice (we don't count the dots, we just know the quantity!). In addition to practising the KIRF, once a week your child participates in an activity 1:1 with the teacher or TA, called a 'Learning Step'. This focuses on your child's next step in their maths learning. We communicate these in the reading record – so please practise these as often as you can at home too please!

All Other Learning

In music sessions this term, children will be learning to listen and appraise a variety of songs. We will also be learning some familiar songs, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5 Little Ducks, This Old Man, Things for Fingers and The Name Song. That's not to mention all the nursery rhymes we learn each week as well!

In P.E. this term, the children will be introduced to working on the apparatus both large and small. They will be learning about balancing, jumping and the principles of safety in P.E. sessions.

Our Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) learning is based upon the Jigsaw PSHE program. Our unit this term is called, "Being Me, in My World". The children will learn through sessions such as: Help others to feel welcome, think about everyone's right to learn, working well with others and how to make our classroom/school a better place.

Our R.E. topic this term is called: Who Are We? The children will be talking about their family and people who are special to them. They will be talking about what they enjoy, what they are good at and places they like to be, also, learning about a Christian Story and talking about it (Noah's Ark).

In our topic sessions we will be getting to know the children and giving them opportunities to show and tell us about people who are important to them. Please could you provide your child with a small box- a shoe box is ideal, with their name on. This will be their 'All about me' box. Please help your child to find one or two photos and a couple of toys or keepsakes that they could bring to school to talk about in class. For example, a medal from an outside school activity, badges from cubs or rainbows etc. The children really love this session and it is a great chance to find out about their hobbies and interests. We will be putting the photos up in class and sending them home once we have finished with them.

Please can the children bring their boxes in by next **Thursday 21st September**. Thank you

All about me!

Dates to Remember

P.E. Every Friday - please send your child into school wearing their kit
14th September 2.50 Little Oaks PARENTS phonics and reading meeting (adults only!)
15th September - School Photos
11th/12th October - Parents Evenings
End of term 1 - Friday 20th October

And finally...

At the end of Term 2, 4 and 6 we will upload a 'Learning Summary' to Tapestry, which will include photos and a written report on what your child has been up to, the progress they have made, and any area they may need additional support with – much like you received in Nursery. Please feel free to upload any photos and comments at any time, we really value all of your contributions!

Children in Little Oaks spend lots of time learning outside, so please ensure they have a pair of wellies (labelled!) that can be brought and left at school, and a waterproof coat. We go out in almost all weather conditions so we need to be extra prepared as we head towards the winter months.

Thank you so much for sending the children up the ramp and steps to the classroom by themselves. It has really made the start of the day better and the children are calmer and more settled as a direct result. We are trying to develop the children's independence and resilience as they begin their Little Oaks journey.

And remember, if you have any questions about your child's time in Little Oaks please feel welcome to use Class Dojo, email or simply come and talk to us.

The Little Oaks team 😊