

This term our topic is 'Winter Wonderland!'

The aim of this leaflet is to give you an overview of the skills to be covered during the study of this topic. Due to the child focussed curriculum in the Foundation Stage, we are unable to specify exactly what we will be doing as it can change regularly depending on the interests and abilities of the children.



As with each topic we will use a linked text to support the learning. We will begin focusing on well-known stories learning about how they are structured before taking the children's lead with stories they are interested in.

Throughout the topic the children will be encouraged to bring in winter themed/favourite stories from home and retell stories in their own words. The seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage will continue to be explored and children will have lots of opportunities to initiate their own learning. By the end of the topic children will have learned to explore books, handle them with care and enjoy re-telling a variety of stories. Within these areas the children will be learning skills and working towards specific goals. The goals which they will be working towards achieving by the end of the Foundation stage include:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Throughout this topic there will be opportunities for children to show sensitivity to their environment and the people around them, to work collaboratively and to express feelings in response to the stories they hear. The topic also lends itself to developing children's understanding of what is right and wrong and other moral dilemmas.

Children will;

- Understand what is right, what is wrong and why
- Consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others
- Understand that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs, that need to be treated with respect
- Work as part of a group or class, taking turns and sharing fairly,
- Understand that they can expect others to treat their needs, views, cultures and beliefs with respect

Communication, Language and Literacy

The activities during this topic provide children with opportunities to respond to a variety of real life, imaginative and role-play situations. Describing characters, retelling a well know story, writing a letter and looking at print on labels will help children to develop their early writing skills. Reading different stories will widen children's vocabulary and help them to express themselves clearly. The repetitive language in lots of well-known stories will help children to retell stories and encourage them to make up their own.

- Enjoy listening to and using spoken and written language and readily turn to it in their play and learning
- Use language to imagine and re-create roles and experiences
- Listen with enjoyment and respond to stories, songs and other music, rhymes and poems and make up their own stories, songs and rhymes
- Extend their vocabulary, exploring the meanings and sounds of new words
- Link sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet.
- Show an understanding of the elements of stories, such as main character, sequence of events and openings and how information can be found in non-fiction texts to answer questions about where, who, why and how.
- Retell narratives in the correct sequence, drawing on language patterns of stories.
- Write their own names and other things such as labels and captions and begin to form simple sentences, sometimes using punctuation.
- To use their phonic knowledge to write simple regular words and make phonetically plausible attempts at more complex words
- Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

Mathematical Development

Stories are a source of interest for children and many contain numbers, shape, size of people, objects and animals.

Children will be able to;

- Count reliably up to 10 everyday objects
- Use language such as "more" or "less" to compare two numbers
- In practical activities and discussion begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting.
- Use language such as "greater", "smaller", "heavier" or "lighter" to compare quantities.
- Use everyday words to describe position
- Talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns.
- Use language such as "circle" or "bigger" to describe the shape and size of solids and flat shapes.
- Use developing mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We will explore the settings and environments in which the stories occur, and children will be able to create their own story settings and explore the outside world for resources and inspiration. We will also learn about the weather during winter and common seasonal changes.

Children will:

- Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.
- Ask questions about why things happen and how things work
- Build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting appropriate resources and adapting their work where necessary
- Select the tools and techniques they need to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.
- Find out about and identify the uses of everyday technology and use information and communication technology and programmable toys to support their learning
- Find out about their environment and talk about those features they like and dislike

Physical Development

Children will practise handling a range of tools with increasing control when using playdough, cooking, printing and painting. Activities will often be linked to stories allowing the children opportunities to develop control and coordination whilst working in an imaginative way. By playing whole group games, children will become aware of space and the needs of others.

Children will;

- Handle tools, objects, and malleable materials safely and with increased control
- Use a range of small and large equipment
- Show awareness of space, of themselves and of others
- Travel around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment
- Recognise the changes that happen to their bodies when they are active

Creative Development

Children will experience working with a variety of materials and learn new skills using their imaginations.

Children will be able to;

- ◆ Explore texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions
- ◆ Recognise and explore how sounds can be changed, sing simple songs from memory, recognise repeated sounds and sound patterns and match movements to sound
- ◆ Express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings by using a widening range of materials, suitable tools, imaginative and role play, movement, designing and making, and a variety of songs and musical instruments
- ◆ Use their imagination in art and design, music, dance, imaginative and role play stories

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Reading:

All children in Early Years are issued with a library book on Fridays. Please ensure they have it back in school by the following Friday to be exchanged. If the book is sent in earlier, it can stay in the library book box. (basket in Nursery)

Many children in Reception have been issued with a reading book. Please encourage your child to read their book at least 3 times before requesting a change; once to decode and discuss the story, twice to improve their fluency and speed of decoding words and to further develop their understanding of the story and characters and thirdly to enable them to read with fluency, expression and intonation appropriate to the text.

P.E. Kit:

Please ensure that your child has a **named PE kit** in school every day. This should consist of:

- a plain white t-shirt
- blue shorts
- plimsolls that fit

Visits/Visitors

If you are available at the beginning or end of any day and would like to come in and read/tell your favourite story, then please let us know and you could be our 'Mystery Reader'. It is lovely for children to listen to different people reading and telling new and popular stories.

Show and Tell

In Nursery children are encouraged to bring in any items of interest for Show and Tell. Children are expected to tell their friends something about the object and why it is special to them.

In Reception Show and Tell is limited to items of interest related to our topic or relevant to the seasons/time of year. Once again, the children will be expected to speak to the class about what they have brought in and explain why it is special.

On Fridays Reception class attend 'Celebration Assembly' where we celebrate children's achievements both inside and out of school. If your child gains a certificate for swimming or any other extra-curricular activity, then they can send it in to show and talk about in Celebration Assembly.



Heddon St Andrew's CofE Primary School

Winter Wonderland



SPRING 1 2019

Reception - Mrs Cubbage, Mrs Haddock,
Miss Watson/Mrs McGurk

Nursery - Miss Kerridge, Mrs Batey and
Mrs Todd