

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Finches

Autumn 2015



Our Theme: Ourselves

Our Key Values:

Caring, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation,
Fairness, Honesty & Respect



We hope that you have had a lovely Summer break and are ready for the first of many exciting terms this year. The children are already settling in very well in their new class and are eager to learn and explore. Here we shall give you an overview of some of the topics we plan to cover this term, and as new ones arise this will be reflected in the weekly sheet in your child's homework book. Please feel free to come and speak with me at any time with questions or queries.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

In this area, we will mainly focus on settling the children into our school routines, for example, putting away belongings in a morning, milk and fruit time, playtime and lunchtime and getting ready for home time. We will be supporting children to develop positive relationships with both adults and other children. We will explore how we treat others and the consequences when we treat them wrongly.

We have devised a set of rules together for our class which shall be followed alongside our school rules and values. Children will receive the many rewards available to them for following these well such as house points, house point treats, merits, golden coins and golden jumpers.

Physical development

We will be teaching the children to use our outdoor equipment in a variety of ways to keep them active and healthy. Children will access outdoor provision throughout the year in all weather conditions. Various opportunities for large and small scale physical development shall be provided both inside and outside. Children will receive a weekly PE session with myself in which we will practise our getting changed routines and enjoy a range of exciting lessons which we will endeavour to link to our topic. They will also enjoy a weekly swimming lesson with Mr Toothill.

Communication and Language

This term we will be modelling good speaking and listening skills, especially during carpet time. The children will be taught when it is appropriate to speak and when to listen. We want the children to be confident in expressing their ideas freely in whole class situations. Children will develop their communication skills in a range of situations including class discussions, role play and group games and activities.

Literacy

We will be reading a range of stories in class, asking children to identify characters and main events in order to be able to retell the story. We would like to use stories as a stimulus for all areas of learning and develop a love of reading in the children. You will find a book in your child's reading bag to enjoy at home. These will be picture books to begin with to allow children to tell stories from pictures. Please comment in the blue reading record to let us know how their reading is developing at home.

We will have a daily phonics session in which children begin learning their letters and sounds. Phonics is very important in children's early reading and writing development as it lays the foundations for children to build upon and develop their independence. We will send home the new phonemes taught in a booklet so they can be reinforced at home also.

Mathematics

We will be mainly focussing on the children's counting skills in a variety of contexts, for example, counting songs, counting children at school and counting out items throughout the day etc. We will also be learning to recognise written numbers and match these to quantities. In the classroom and outdoors, maths activities will be in a variety of learning experiences where the children can learn creatively.

Understanding of the world

Whilst looking at the topic of 'Ourselves' we will be modelling how to ask questions to find out information. We shall be developing our skills in ICT using simple computer programmes and other programmable toys and equipment. We will visit our ICT suite on a regular basis to develop early computer skills such as mouse control and turning the machine on and off.

Expressive arts and design.

The children will access a range of creative activities on a daily basis including art and design provision, music equipment and different role play scenarios. We will encourage children to use their imagination in their learning and to be confident enough to develop their own ideas.

Important Information

As per the school homework policy which is available at www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk homework will be set on Wednesday and returned on Monday. The homework we set will be fun and creative for you to enjoy with your child at home. Please add a comment in your child's homework book to let me know how they got on with it. If there are any issues with the homework, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Our P.E day is a Monday. Occasionally this may change, so it is helpful to have a PE kit in school at all times. Swimming will take place on a Tuesday morning first thing. If you can offer any help please contact myself or Mr Toothill.

In our classroom we have an 'interest board.' We use this to plan activities which will interest the children. Please encourage your child to add to this regularly. Children could bring in photographs, pictures from catalogues, their own drawings, a written explanation etc. to reflect their interests. I look forward to receiving these and sticking them up on the board.

We are continually assessing the children by observing them in their play. These notes and photographs build up in their profile as a record of their "Wow Moments". Please send in information about any achievements you have seen your child make independently at home, this could be in the form of a photograph, a note on a post-it, a piece of independent work etc. This will help build up a bigger picture of your child.

If you feel you are able to offer support in any way please don't hesitate to get involved. Any help is always appreciated, for example if you have any spare time to listen to children read, to help with activities or if you have a particular skill or interest to share with the class.

Finally, we are fortunate to be joined this year with a Trainee Teacher called Miss Laura Parker. She will be working closely with the children and at times be taking the class. You will also meet my Teaching Assistant Miss Alison Whitlam. We endeavour to be a strong and effective team who provide a safe and happy learning environment.

We look forward to a wonderful first term in the Finches.

Mrs Claire Roberts