

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Finches

Summer 2016



Our Theme: In the Wild

Our Key Values:

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



Welcome back from the Easter holiday. We hope you are ready for a busy and fun Summer Term! The children have made great progress since starting school in September and we will spend the Summer Term embedding the skills they have developed in preparation for moving on to Key Stage One. The children love learning in a range of different ways and we will endeavour to make all learning experiences exciting, stimulating and fun! 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.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

As always, we will continue to instil the children's independence. We believe that for the children to take charge of their own learning and development they need to be independent and confident.

As the children reach the end of the Foundation Stage we are going to be exploring how things in life can change and how we can deal with the emotions that come with change. The children will be acting as role models during visits from the pre-school children due to start with us in September. We will discuss how they felt when they began visiting school and what they can do to make the younger children feel happy and safe.

Physical development

Our topic this term will be 'apparatus'. We are going to explore travelling, climbing and balancing on a range of equipment. We will begin on smaller apparatus and work our way up to more challenging activities.

The children will also begin swimming again this term with Mr Toothill. They will be developing their confidence and early swimming skills.

Communication and Language

We are going to be focussing on following instructions with several ideas or actions this term. This will be through a range of adult led and play based experiences. We are also going to be using lots of 'how' and 'why' questions this term to allow the children to extend their ideas and use more complex vocabulary.

Literacy

As we get to know the children's interests across the term we will plan opportunities to use reading and writing in a range of different ways, through both adult led and play opportunities.

We have spent lots of time exploring the different graphemes in phonics and modelling how to write. We will now give the children many more experiences of independent writing to apply these skills. We are expecting the children to now structure sentences using finger spaces and to try and use capital letters and full stops. We will explore many different writing types, for example letters, lists, captions and non-fiction.

We will continue having our daily twenty minute phonics lessons. The children will learn new graphemes for reading and will apply these with their blending skills to read new words. Please continue to complete phonics challenges at home as this will embed the skills we teach at school.

The children enjoy taking part in guided reading each day and engaging in the reading activities we provide. They read once a week within a group with an adult. We focus on early reading skills, including following a sentence left to right, stopping at a full stop, using phonics to decode and using the pictures as prompts. We also spend time on the children's comprehension skills by referring back to parts in the text and answering questions about characters feelings and actions.

Mathematics

We will be exploring our new maths targets this term to ensure the children are confident at subtracting and adding two one digit numbers. We will identify double and half of particular numbers and we also tackle many real life problems using these skills.

As always we will encourage the children to use a breadth of maths skills, including measure, time and shape within their play. We will model and extend where necessary, so that the children make good progress in all aspects of maths.

Understanding of the world

This term we are going to be focusing on animals and wildlife. We will use videos, the internet and books to research and then show our understanding in a range of ways e.g. creating information posters, booklets, models etc.

We are also going to be growing plants this term. We will teach the children what plants need to grow and what we can do to help them

We are looking forward to a delivery of caterpillars this term which we will watch grow and develop into beautiful butterflies so we can see this life cycle for ourselves. We will teach the children what animals and creatures need to grow and what we can do to help wild animals.

Expressive arts and design.

As always we incorporate art and design into all our topics.

We continuously have materials and tools available to the children for them to make and create their own ideas. We encourage the children to use their imagination wherever possible as this brings learning to life.

Important Information

As per the school homework policy which is available at www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk homework will be set on Thursday 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. We have now also begun setting Athletics homework and we hope the children enjoy using their maths skills to earn points and certificates!

Our PE day is Monday or Thursday

Our swimming day is Tuesday.

We would really appreciate contributions from home for your child's learning journey book. We often use comments you have added in their homework book to add to this but please feel free to write things which aren't relevant to the homework e.g. if you have noticed them do or say something for the first time or reach a particular milestone. Anything which has made you think 'wow!'

As always, any help which you can offer in the classroom is always greatly appreciated no matter what length of time or how regularly for example, hearing children read or helping with activities. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out.

We are keeping our fingers crossed for some sunshine this summer and we ask for your support in keeping the children safe in the sun. Please send your child with a sun hat in the morning, apply sun cream and ensure they have a water bottle in school to keep them hydrated. Please also consider that the children regularly take off their school jumpers, so it is imperative that all school uniform is clearly labelled.

I would also encourage the children to join an after school club this term if they haven't already done so. It helps enhance their social skills in addition to being really fun!

We are looking forward to a great Summer term. Please feel free to come and see me with any concerns or issues at all.

Kind Regards

Mrs Roberts