

# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Finches

Autumn 2021



Our Themes: All about me and Once upon a time...

### **Our Key Values:**

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



We hope that you have had a lovely Summer 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.

### Our Theme:

We will begin this term by settling the children into our school routines. As we get to know the children and understand their interests and likes, we will plan lots of exciting, engaging experiences and learning opportunities for them. We believe that children learn best when they take charge of their own learning. Our class themes this term are All About Me for the first term and then Once Upon a Time.. The children will do lots of fun and creative activities linked to them and what they enjoy. There will also be specific themes for the Reception children throughout the term, including Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas!

### **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 shall encourage children to play and work alongside one another to build these friendships. 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 the purple jumper.

### **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. We have all-weather suits so that the children can explore the outdoor classroom, the rest of the school and the wider environment even in poor weather (you are welcome to send in a named pair of Wellington boots to keep in school for this purpose). Various opportunities for large and small scale physical development shall be provided both inside and outside. Children will receive a weekly PE session with Mr Toothill and 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. The first terms lesson with Mr Toothill will be a swimming lesson.

### **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 reading record to let us know how their reading is developing at home. Children will also take part in relaxed shared reading sessions every morning with a teacher, focusing on different areas such as vocabulary and comprehension.

We will have a phonics session every day in which children will begin to learn 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 so they can be reinforced at home also. Please practice these with your child as often as you can and this will significantly help your child to learn to read and spell.

## **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 our EYFS weekly themes, 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 have the iPads available most days to develop their skills computing skills independently. Children will also enjoy basic Science exploration activities.

## **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](http://www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk) homework will be set on a **Friday** and returned on a **Thursday**, 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 days are: **Tuesday** with Mr Toothill and **Friday** with Miss Parker. Occasionally this may change, so it is helpful to have a PE kit in school at all times. Children can come in their PE kit to school. If your child's ears are pierced please ensure they are removed on PE days. Please consult the school's uniform policy for the correct PE kit. For the Autumn term we will be swimming. The children can come in their PE kit but will also need to bring a towel and a costume which are named.

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, a certificate, medal or trophy etc. This will help build up a bigger picture of your child.

Children will have their own reading books changed twice a week. **Rewards will be given for regular reading and diaries will be checked weekly to ensure that children are reading at home.** *Please understand that the children's reading stage will be changed when they have demonstrated over a period of time that they have improved their fluency and comprehension on that stage. There are a number of varied books for each reading stage and it is important that the children read a breadth of different genres.*

Children need a named water bottle in school every day as we are unable to provide cups for them to use. We are a WATER ONLY school. Bottles containing anything other than juice will be replaced with water.

Please also send a bag containing a change of clothes/underwear for your child to keep on their peg at all times in case of an accident that requires changing.

As the weather turns colder and wetter this term, children will need to have a warm and waterproof coat (named hats, gloves and scarves etc.) as we take the children outside for lessons as well as playtimes whatever the weather! Wellington boots and a spare set of socks that can stay in school would be desirable if at all possible. Coats should also be in school at all times, just in case the weather turns.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask

Miss Parker and Miss Wells