

Term 2 Newsletter – Pre-School (Turtle Class)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely half term and are all feeling rested and well! We have an exciting but busy term ahead with lots of fun things to learn and celebrate! I hope you will be able to join us for some of these throughout the term!

The Pre-School team:

Beth Baker

Claire Cox

Class Teacher

Learning Support Assistant

Enquiry Question this term: I wonder what makes me special?

This term we are thinking about all of the things that make us special! We will explore our differences, similarities, likes and dislikes as well as our different families! Through this enquiry we will begin to learn how to express our own opinions and respect each other.

Learn Together

This term we are focussing on the “We are all different” strand of Learn Together. This will fit in with our enquiry topic as we explore our differences through stories to facilitate discussions.

We will also learn about different events such as Remembrance Day, Diwali, Anti Bullying Week and Christmas.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus in particular on Article 39: Children have the right to get help if they have been hurt, neglected, treated badly or affected by war, so they can get back their health and dignity. We will be using this as a point of discussion in our learning and also to support us to seek adults for help when needed.

Communication and Language, Literacy and Phonics

Communication and Language

We will continue to consolidate our listening skills this term through different games and stories. We will also begin to think about the words we can use to help us with taking turns, being kind friends and sticking up for ourselves, such as “Stop. I don’t like that”.

Literacy

Our focus book this term is called “Blue Penguin” by Petr Horacek. This story is perfect for helping us to explore our enquiry question as it is all about our differences and the things that make us special. We will also use this story to support the children to make predictions about what might happen next.

Phonics

Our phonics focus this term is on Voice Sounds. This involves exploring the different sounds our voices can make through rhymes and songs, as well as making animal noises and sound effects during our play. The aim of this is to build the children’s confidence in speaking aloud and have fun finding out what our voices can do!

Maths

Our maths theme this term is Shape and Pattern! We will be exploring different 2D shapes and thinking about their properties such as how many sides and corners they have. We will be looking to find different shapes all around us in our environment too. We will then move on to pattern and have a go at making different repeated patterns (e.g. blue, red, blue, red) and explore pattern in music.

Wider Curriculum

<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>We will also continue to develop our turn-taking skills to support our friendships, using key phrases and tools to help us, such as a timer.</p> <p>We will also begin to consider how we are feeling and what we can do if we feel cross or sad.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Our focus this term is on music! We will be learning to play instruments with control, clapping along to songs and creating our own songs and rhymes!</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p> <p>This term we will be focussing on different types of changes such as freezing and melting, how food changes when it is cooked/frozen and how our shadows may change throughout the day.</p> <p>We will also be considering the changes in our environment such as the change in seasons and weather.</p>	<p>Physical Development</p> <p>We will explore fine motor activities to build the muscles needed for writing.</p> <p>In PE we will be developing our balls skills by throwing, catching, rolling and kicking!</p>

Home Learning

Reading

Please read stories with your child at home! To support our learning at school, you could encourage your child to join in with some of the repeated phrases that occur in their favourite stories! This is great for children's language development.

Maths

Please support children to develop their counting skills by modelling how to count in different scenarios. This could be counting the steps as you go up and down the stairs or counting the number of toys during play! You could also use mathematical language during playtime with your child such as "I've built a **tall** tower" or "This car is **bigger** than your car" and recognise shapes around the house or on walks to support your child's maths learning.

Pre-School & Reception

Please see the parent maths booklet for ideas on play-based activities to help your child with key mathematical skills. A copy is in the year group Google Drive folder.

There is also a home learning section with short videos relating to each of the small steps listed earlier in this newsletter. <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning>

Other important information/notes for the time ahead

Google Drive

class newsletters and other resources/information for parents. The link for this is on our class page on the website. It is: <https://tinyurl.com/294sa5b9>

Changes to Routine

Please let Beth know if there are any changes in routines at home so we can mirror this at Pre-School and best support your child.

What does my child need to bring into school every day?

- Spare changes of clothes
- Weather appropriate clothing (hat/scarf/gloves if cold and sun hat/ sun cream if hot)
- Wet wipes and nappies for those that need it
- Additional bag for wet/dirty clothes

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss then please either speak to Beth at drop-off/pick-up times or send an email to info@somerdaleet.org.uk and Beth will get back to you as soon as possible. Beth is usually around after-school if you want to have a longer conversation.

Reminders

On Wednesday afternoons we will continue to enjoy our "Wellie Wednesday" sessions! Please can you ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school and a spare change of clothes in case they get wet or muddy!