

Term 4 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 how plants and animals grow?

This term we are thinking about plants and animals! We will have a go at growing our own plants and watch how they change and develop as they grow. We will look at how different types of animals change as they get older. We will also consider how we can care for our plants, animals and wider environment during our outdoor learning sessions.

Learn Together

This term we are focussing on the concept of fairness. We will explore this through different stories and scenarios and will have discussions on what we think is fair or unfair. We will also learn about different events such as Mother's Day, Holi, Ramadan and Easter.

Rights Respecting Schools

Article 12: You have the right to give your opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

We will be able to understand more about this right through our enquiry and learn together discussions and also use this to understand that we can seek adults for support.

Communication and Language, Literacy and Phonics

Communication and Language

This term our focus is on using and understanding more complex sentences. We will be using lots of 'why' questions to encourage the children to extend their thinking and link these ideas using 'because'. We will also begin to use more complex instructions that require multiple steps.

Literacy

Our focus book this term is "Jack and the Beanstalk". This story is perfect for helping us to explore our Learn Together topic of fairness. We will also use this story to help us in our enquiry learning by planting our own 'magic beans' and hoping they develop into our very own beanstalks!

We will also be focussing on "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" as our key fairytale, specifically looking at how we can re-tell the story which we had a lot of fun doing last term with the Three Little Pigs.

Phonics

Our phonics focus this term is on Alliteration. This involves exploring the different sounds that we can hear at the beginning of words and noticing when they are the same or different. We will have lots of games and activities to explore this and may see that your children are beginning to notice the sounds in words more often.

Maths

Our maths theme this term is measurement! We will be comparing different objects to develop our use of language in relation to measurement such as long, short, heavy and lights. We will also look to extend the children's language further by introducing the '-er' and '-est' suffixes e.g. tall, taller and tallest.

Wider Curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

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.
We will also develop our ability to self-regulate and follow more complex instructions.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our focus this term is on developing our mark-making further. This involves beginning to add meaning to the marks that we make and adding expression to the things that we draw e.g. happy or sad faces on a character.
We will also begin to have a stronger focus on developing our pencil grips.

Understanding the World

This term we will be focussing on exploring our environment. This topic will link well to our other learning as we enjoy observing and spending time in nature, and learn how to care for it.

Physical Development

We will continue to explore fine motor activities to build the muscles needed for writing.
In PE we will be developing our gymastics skills such as our balance and flexibility. We will also look at how we can select appropriate movement skills e.g. crawling through tunnels, walking in busy environments etc.

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 which is great for children's language development. Inspiring a love of reading for pleasure at a young age will set your child up to be successful in the future with both academically and imaginatively.

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! If you are on a walk, you could also notice the numbers you see in the environment. 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!