

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 I like and dislike?

This term we are thinking about all of the things that we like and dislike! We will have different prompts to help us talk about our preferences and begin to use the word 'because' to explain our thinking. We will also link this learning to exploring our senses, colour mixing and exploring different materials.

Learn Together

This term we are focussing on the "Special Books" strand of Learn Together. This will fit in with our focus book this term called "Lulu Loves the Library", focussing on our favourite books as well as those that are important in different religions.

We will also learn about different events such as Children's Mental Health Week and Lunar New Year.

Rights Respecting Schools

Article 13: Children have the right to share freely with others what they learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.

We will be able to understand more about this right through our enquiry and learn together sessions on expressing preferences and celebrating our differences.

Communication and Language, Literacy and Phonics

Communication and Language

This term our focus is on question words. We will use these during group time and discovery to help us understand what they mean and in turn support us to think more deeply about our learning.

Literacy

Our focus book this term is called "Lulu Loves the Library" by Anna McQuinn. This story is perfect for helping us to explore our Learn Together topic. We will also use this story to support the children to make predictions about what might happen next and explore other languages by inviting parents in to read stories in their home language. We are also hoping to make a trip to Keynsham library (further details to come).

Phonics

Our phonics focus this term is on Body Percussion and Rhythm. This involves exploring the different sounds our bodies can make through rhymes and songs, noticing the number of syllables in words and clapping out patterns.

Maths

Our maths theme this term is comparison! We will be comparing different amounts using language such as "more than", "less than", "one more" and "one less". We will also look at how we can group different objects based on different characteristics such as shape, size and colour.

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 develop our ability to recognise different emotions and consider how we can regulate these appropriately.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Our focus this term is on exploring different materials. We will think about how we can select an appropriate material and begin to look at how we can join and change the materials.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p> <p>This term we will be focussing on exploring how things work. We will use our thinking brains to notice different mechanisms, such as the chains on our pedal bikes, use technology such as the iPads and continue to notice the changes in our environment such as water turning into ice!</p>	<p>Physical Development</p> <p>We will continue to explore fine motor activities to build the muscles needed for writing.</p> <p>In PE we will be developing our dance skills such as our balance and rhythm.</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

<p>Google Drive</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Changes to Routine</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>What does my child need to bring into school every day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Reminders</p> <p>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!</p>
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