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Happy New Year Welcome back to an exciting term in 2023. We hope that you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you all the best for the New Year.

Welcome to Mrs Logan-Campbell who has joined us as teaching assistant and will be supporting the children in their learning, Miss Dunstall will continue to be in our classroom as well once a week on a Thursday.

This is a brief insight into the learning that will take place during the first few weeks of the Spring Term. As the term and the topics unravel, we will find that the children will lead the learning in exciting directions

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to help the children to become more mindful of each other and to increase their awareness of their own personal power; developing understanding of their power to choose how to behave.

We will also build on the Growth Mind-set work we have already done - the children all love the 'Power of Yet!'

Communication and Language

- we will continue to focus on developing vocabulary and this will be supported through its inclusion in texts such as 'How to find a Bird' by Emily Ward.

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Spring 2023

Fly, Fly Away & Space

Physical Development

Gross motor - This term we will start having PE sessions in the school hall, exploring new ways to move our bodies and using simple equipment to develop our throwing and catching skills. Of course we will also continue with the many opportunities in our outside areas, including our range of bikes and scooters that all come out for Bike Friday.

Fine motor - we will continue our Dough Disco sessions and begin to introduce 'Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle' sessions alongside work on letter formation.

Literacy - this term we will focus on information books; these may be formal non-fiction books, 'info-stories' or 'info-poems'. We have all started to write our names now and we will continue to work on the letter formation within these.

Phonics - last term we covered all of the Phase 2 sounds and started learning those from Phase 3. This term we will start by recapping these and applying them in our writing. Then we will start to learn new sounds from Phase 3. Watch out for our weekly newsletters and videos to help you support your child's learning.

Reading - Please remember to get your child to read their Big Cat Scheme book EVERY DAY. Just 5-10 minutes a day will make a huge impact on the progress that they make. Please ensure that you share a picture book with your child every evening - this expands vocabulary, improves speaking and listening skills and aids concentration.

Writing - This term we will be expecting the children to add labels to their drawings and will be encouraging them all to construct and start writing their own simple sentences. If you need a list or a label, ask them to sound it out.

Mathematical Development

- introducing zero



- comparing numbers to 5 (then 10), Combining two amounts and exploring number bonds to 10

- comparing the mass, capacity, length and height of a range of objects

- exploring more complex patterns and the concept of time.

We will be exploring these in very practical ways, starting in the first week with making our own salt dough to use in the balance scales!

Expressive Arts and Design

- building on our initial explorations to create nests and birds from clay
- considering the key features and colours we need to include when painting different species of birds
- exploring new techniques and looking at the work of other artists.

Parent Information

Please remember to read through the weekly Newsletters from the Office and check the calendar page on the school website.

Important Dates

Half-Term - 13th - 17th February

Sibling Photographs - 28th February 9.15am - 11am

World Book Day - 2nd March (dress up will be required)

Book Look - 21st March 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Class celebration assembly - 23rd March 9 - 9.30am

Parents' Evenings - 28th and 30th March 3.30 - 6pm

Phonics Session - apologies this was not fitted in last term, I will aim to set a date for this for before half-term

Two Woods Visit - March, TBC

Understanding the World

- finding out about different species of birds, including those that are now extinct, and linking back to dinosaurs. We will be taking part in the annual Big School Birdwatch and helping the RSPB monitor how certain species are getting on in our local area.
- Finding out about our Christian Values; starting with Humility, Service and Forgiveness. Then Justice, Wisdom and Peace after half-term.
- Exploring Epiphany, Easter and Chinese New Year

Forest School

Please wear OLD clothes, arms and legs must be fully covered. Waterproofs, welly boots and extra layers for warmth should be worn during these colder months. The children will be outside for most of the day.

First Session: Wednesday 11th January



Parent helpers are vital to these sessions and enable us to offer a larger range of activities and teach progressive tool techniques with using saws, peelers and whittling knives that we would otherwise not be able to introduce.

PARENTS HELPING: Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered and come in to help with reading, forest schools, the walk to the library, etc - please do sign up to help as much as you can. Contact the Office to book a DBS, then let me know when you can come in.

General Reminders - If someone else is collecting your child, then please let the Office know.

We are a NUT-FREE school



Book Bags - **Please bring these in everyday.** Reading Logs will be checked regularly and Purple Phonics Books should be completed each week. All the new sounds taught will be digraphs (2 letters) or trigraphs (3 letters) and need much more consolidation than the individual letter sounds.

Water Bottle - Please bring in daily and ensure it is named.

Always ensure your child has a named waterproof coat - we will be outside every day, no matter what the weather.

THINK WEATHER! Vests, hats, gloves, sunhats, sunscreen?

Please make sure everything is **NAMED**.

Remember to check the Class WhatsApp group and Class Dojo page

