

Autumn term 2017

Oak Tree Class - Reception/Year 1



This Term we will welcome Reception children into Oak tree class to join the year one children. This will give us a fantastic opportunity to continue to provide all of the children with child initiated, continuous provision opportunities as well as extend the learning of the more able pupils within the class.

We will begin the year by consolidating the children's basic social skills, such as sharing, making friendships and thinking about the feelings of others and how to express their own. The year 1 children will also be encouraged to adapt their learning behaviours in order to become more confident at independent and more structured working.

An important part of our learning in Oak tree class revolves around phonics, as this provides the building blocks for basic reading and writing. The younger children will begin by exploring initial letter sounds in as many different ways and environments as possible, often linked to singing or nursery rhymes. Often this provides many craft or outside opportunities, whether it be making spiders webs, cycling the trike around the letter 'S', or drawing the grapheme in the mud.

When they are ready, the children will move on to basic blending of sounds to make words, sight word recognition, as well as reading and writing simple sentences. New double letter sounds (digraphs) will be slowly introduced, ch, sh, th, ng, ee, etc. and the children begin to use these within their literacy work. Handwriting practice will continue to play an important part in year 1, ensuring that the children are able to form their letters clearly and accurately.

This term the literacy focus is on stories with predictable phrasing, rhyming, descriptive language and labels, lists and captions. We will be linking this where possible, to our topic work on 'Our World', particularly looking at books with a cold places theme. We will create an exciting role play area for them to explore, this term it will be an igloo and then become a Christmas grotto. The children will be encouraged to speak about and record their weekly news.

Our Science and Geography focus' this term tie in well together as we are studying changes in days and the seasons, as well as weather patterns in the UK and other hot and cold areas of the world. We will look at ice as a material and explore the processes of freezing and melting. There will be many outdoor opportunities to study the seasons and harvest time, with much of this work leading into art, using natural materials found as a stimulus. Harvest pictures and prayers will be written and shared in our harvest service in the church.

Maths in Oak Tree class is taught in a very practical manner. It begins in EYFS by the children consolidating their counting, matching and number recognition skills, progressing to number order and basic addition/subtraction skills. The children have chances to play many board games and can use our interactive whiteboard to access internet supported learning.

By Year 1 we progress onto teaching basic mathematical methods, such as counting on/back using number lines, using arrays to represent numbers and the ability to hold a number in your head. Numbers to 20 are consolidated and numbers to 100 introduced through counting in 10's, 5's and 2's. Throughout the term the children will also work on basic shape recognition, learning the days of the week, months and seasons, doing some simple weighing and measuring as well as telling the time to 'O' clock and half past.

As part of our whole school 'Our World' topic the children will explore the village of Garboldisham and make basic maps. They will ask questions about the history of the village and talk about changes within their own living memory.

PE continues to be outside for as long as possible, with basic ball skills and control being taught to all and then consolidated during the Wednesday rugby session (year 1 only). As the weather changes the children will come indoors and begin learning dance and gymnastics.

In music the children will have learnt many songs and used percussion instruments to accompany them, focusing on playing a steady beat and simple rhythms. The end of the term culminates with Christmas celebrations and the reception children performing The Nativity.

Staff in Oak Tree Class are always available for an informal chat if you have any information to pass on, or any questions - at the beginning of the year in particular we do have to be mindful of settling the children in to class in the morning - but we are available on the playground at the beginning and end of each day.

Mrs Howard, Paula and Kim