

Oak Tree Class Curriculum Statement



Autumn 2018

This term in Oak Tree Class we welcome our new Reception children into class. It is a very exciting time as we move into a different classroom having access to our new and improved outdoor area. The year will begin with lots of settling in activities, lots of chances for the children to explore their environment, make new friends and many opportunities for staff to observe and really get to know the children. Speaking and listening plays a hugely important role in these early interactions and the children will be working on their ability to listen and respond, extend their vocabulary and ask and answer questions. Essential physical activity, bike riding, climbing and collaboration will be strongly encouraged to aid motor development. In PSHE the topic will be New Beginnings and this will give the Year One children chance to think about how to welcome the new children, their thoughts and feelings and how to make the learning spaces happy, safe and welcoming places. History will investigate any changes within their living memory.

Throughout the year, phonics teaching plays a major part in helping the children to read and write. Both year groups will have regular phonic sessions at their own levels and many opportunities will be given within free flow to explore and consolidate letters and sounds. The Reception children will begin forming letter shapes in many ways such as sand, salt and playdough, and will move on to writing their names and other words when ready.

Year One children will consolidate their writing skills and letter formation, using this to write for a purpose, generally linked to a known text or our topic work. Some may even move on to use spaces between their words, write on lines and begin to use basic punctuation in the writing.

The whole school topic for this term is based around the question: 'I wonder if humans are greedy?', with our values being, Love and Compassion. We will be focussing our work around texts that explore these ideas such as, 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Love', 'The Thing' and 'The Digger and the Flower'. These texts provide the children with many talking points, moral dilemmas and rich writing opportunities. 'Chicken Clicking' is also a wonderful text used as a vehicle for teaching the children about internet safety.

Maths remains an important part of the curriculum with opportunities to explore number, shape and measures in all environments. Focus will be on developing the ability to count, read, write and order numbers, first within 10, and then 100. Simple addition and subtraction activities will lead on from discussions about more and less. Year one will begin to use place value to attempt harder problems, incorporating their increasing knowledge of counting in 10s and 2s.

Time and sequencing will be approached through the seasons, weeks and months of the year. Money and its uses will also be explored with the children setting up a role play shop to experience buying and giving change - this will link in nicely with the idea of greed and the question 'Are the best things in life are free?'

Science focusses on the Seasons initially, contributing to our longitudinal study asking 'How much rain falls in a year?' Visits to the forest will give first-hand experience of changing environments and opportunities to interact with natural materials, digging, building and shuffling through leaves.

Through the text, *The Thing*, we will be looking at different materials and their properties, using our knowledge to build waterproof shelters. We will make simple designs, maps and plans, constructing and testing our products. The environmental impact of plastic will be studied and Alexander Parkes will be our focus scientist for the term.

The children's developing knowledge of the world will be increased looking at countries and capitals of the UK, exploring its characteristics, emblems, patron saints and weather patterns. Children will be made familiar with the Union flag and national anthem.

As Christmas approaches, increased opportunity will be given for designing and making products using a range of materials. Harvest festival and *The Creation* story will have already been a focus, evolving into 'What can learn about Jesus through the Christmas story?' The Nativity in church allows a wonderful role play opportunity, as well as a chance to perform known songs.

It promises to be a busy and exciting Autumn term!