RECEPTION NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2

WHITEHORSE MANOR INFANTS

020 8684 3613

NOTE FROM THE TEACHER

Welcome back. We are delighted at how well the children have settled back into their reception classes and are ready and raring to learn. Every half term we like to write to you to keep you informed about what your child will be learning about. Our theme this half term is 'Our Amazing World.' Through this topic, the children will be finding out about different cultures and celebrations. We will also be exploring special times in our own families such as birthdays, Christmas, Eid, Easter and Diwali.

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Communication & Language & Literacy

In our literacy work, we will be reading story books about our world and also thinking about celebrations and special days for our families and community. These will include 'My Granny Went to Market' and 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane'. We will be encouraging the children to write for a purpose, through making maps, shopping lists and bus tickets. It would be helpful if you support the work we do at school by involving your child in any writing that you do and talking about the letters and sounds you use in your writing.

This half term the children will be moving onto the second half of phase 2 phonics. During their phonics lessons, they will be learning new sounds including new digraphs and trigraphs. They will learn to read simple phrases and spell simple cvc words. They will also learn how to read and spell common 'tricky' words such as put, push, pull and full.

During reading practice sessions children will read in a group supported by an adult. They will read the same book three times a week and each session will concentrate on a new skill. These skills include decoding words, prosody (using expression in their reading) and comprehension.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Our focus this half term supports the work happening in Understanding the World where the children will be celebrating similarities and differences. We will also be continuing our work on Building Learning Powers where we are developing the skills to become resilient learners. This is taught by introducing different dinosaurs that focus on a strand needed to develop resilience. These dinosaurs are called 'Tryosaur', 'Focusrex', 'Absorboraptor' and 'Thinkodocus.' All of which build up to becoming a 'Resilosaurus Rex'. Ask your child, which dinosaur we are trying to be at school this week?

Physical Development

In our outdoor learning area, we will continue to work on spatial awareness, large and small body movements and playing turn-taking games, which require team work. The children will be encouraged to develop their gross motor skills through climbing equipment and obstacle courses. We will also be continuing to spend time in class on activities that develop the children's fine motor skills and build the strength in these muscles to use one handed tools effectively.

Maths

In mathematics, we will be continuing to focus on numbers to five. This includes learning about 'parts and wholes' and that 5 is made up of different parts e.g. 3 and 2 make 5.
This half term we will also be investigating 2D shape and learning vocabulary linked to their properties such as 'sides' and 'corners'. Watch out for when Mr X visits our classrooms and steals the class shapes! I'm sure your child will come home and tell you all about his antics.

Understanding the World

As part of this term's topic theme, the children will be continuing to learn about a range of different religious and cultural celebrations and traditions. They will be exploring how people celebrate these special times and what similarities and differences there are. Equally important will be the learning that the children do over the coming weeks in 'getting along and falling out' as well as how to show tolerance and treat others with respect and kindness.

Expressive Arts & Design

In expressive arts and design, the children will be applying their shape knowledge when model making with a range of different media and materials. Therefore, if you have any cardboard boxes, such as empty cereal boxes, clean yoghurt pots, plastic bottles and bottle tops you can donate to the school it would be much appreciated. Please ensure any plastics are washed before donating.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Individual and sibling photos: Friday 13th November

Infants Nativity Performance: Tuesday 8th December at 2:00pm-3:00pm

Willow class church visit: Friday 11th Decemeber 2:00pm-3:00pm

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day: Wednesday 16th December