

Spring Term 1 Overview—Willow Class—Year R—2023/24

Communication and Language

During Spring term the children will be actively taking part in more opportunities to use their growing language skills. Talking about the holidays is a great opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills as the children learn to orally recount events. As part of this, we will help the children to develop their partner talk skills, what it means to show someone that you are listening with your whole body.

We will be enjoying a new literacy text, the children will have lots of opportunities to learn this new text, along with many new words. Listening to and retelling stories continues to form foundations for much of our learning.

The children will develop questioning skills, through play, we will develop children's curiosity. Adults will focus on questioning and support children to wonder about the world around them.

Understanding of the World

This term in Willow Class we will be discovering all about recycling. We will learn to identify and name different materials. We will be finding out about special celebrations which happen during the first part of the year, starting off with Chinese New Year. As part of our RE learning, we will continue to find out about different cultures and religions. In the garden we will be recognizing the changes through the winter season, thinking about processes such as freezing and melting and floating and sinking.

Literacy

Key Text: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Reading: The children will enjoy our new text, learning to retell the story orally and developing their own innovated versions.

Writing: We will focus on developing confidence in writing 3 letter (CVC) words independently and attempting to write the most obvious sounds in longer words. Writing labels, lists and messages in play.

Phonics:

In phonics, the children have now been taught all set 1 sounds with some children moving on to set 2 sounds this term. We will develop skills in reading and writing short words using set 1 sounds with independence.

R.E..

Focus: What Stories are Special and Why?

In this unit we will discover about stories that are special to us and why. The children will be asked to bring in a special book from home and to talk about it's meaning. We will find out about the Holy Bible and some of the stories from the bible and discover why this is a special book to Christians. We will then explore the Quran and it's importance to Muslims.

Quest: Let's Go Green!

In this quest we will be investigating materials and finding out how to protect our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling. We will be thinking about how we can do this on a small scale and how this can make a difference to the wider world. We will look at each of the three areas: we will create posters encouraging others to reduce waste, we will learn how to recycle by making something useful out of everyday objects..

Music

Focus: Everyone

During this unit the children will be learning a series of nursery rhymes. Along with learning the words, the children will learn to play along on a range of classroom instruments and perform in front of others. Part of our learning will be to follow rhythm and tempo.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be using recycled materials to make 3D models. In addition to this the children will have lots of opportunities to learn and develop art skills such as printing, drawing and painting. There will be lots of opportunities for performing stories and developing role play in the home corner and through themed role play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Willow class children have been busy getting to know one another during the Autumn term as well as building relationships with staff. During the Spring term, we hope to develop children's attitude and behaviour towards each other in order to strengthen these relationships. Adults will support children to think about how others might be feeling, to take turns and play fairly. Through our PSHE scheme we will have focussed sessions to guide the children to think about different scenarios using adults as role models. This term our PSHE learning will focus on 'Dreams and Goals'.

Being able to deal with our own feelings and regulate our emotions will continue to take place, giving children tools to use when they are feeling, sad, angry, etc.

We will use our new kitchen to promote independence and understand-

Maths

As part of the children's mathematics learning, they will be consolidating numbers to 5 and securing number bonds to 5. We will also begin to teach numbers 6 to 10. Giving children a deep understanding of each of these numbers.

We will be spending some time exploring mass and capacity, using structured maths sessions and resources readily available in water and sand play.

Physical Development

In P.E. lessons :

Focus: Cognitive

This term we will be focusing on our cognitive skills. We will be exploring different balances through thematic stories, songs and games. Importance will be placed on following instructions, following rules and being able to identify own strengths.

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

We will be working on automaticity of writing letters, now that the children have been introduced to each letter of the alphabet, they will now begin to form these letters using mostly correct formation. Many activities will be used alongside handwriting activities to continue to develop fine motor skills needed. Scissors skills will also develop as the children learn to cut along guide lines and turn the paper. Cutting up dinner with a knife and fork will be encouraged at lunch times too. Gross motor skills remain very important, the children learn to coordinate, balance and develop the all important movements of shoulder, elbows and wrists.