

Curriculum Newsletter

Foundation Unit

Welcome back! We hope you've all had a lovely break! We are very excited about this half term, it is our favorite time of the year - Christmas yaaay! Our topic is called **Celebrations!** We will be learning about bonfire night, the festival of light Diwali, birthdays and Christmas. All areas of learning are taught through stimulating and exciting practical activities and play, linking to our topic. Below are some of the things we will be learning about in the 7 areas of our curriculum:

Learning Opportunities in the Early Years Foundation Stage this half term are:

PRIME AREAS:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Much of this will be taught through day to day classroom practise and circle time. We will focus on forming positive relationships, listening to each other when we share our own experiences of celebrations and explore how other people celebrate special times too.

Physical Development - Foundation 2 children will continue their gymnastic work focusing on movement, direction, pathways and speed.

Foundation 1 children will focus on dance and movement. Children will learn about dancing and moving in time to music. They will move in different ways like fireworks to Katy Perry and learn an Indian dance routine! Please note F1 children **do not** need a PE kit they just take off their shoes and socks.

In class we will also be developing our fine motor skills by using small equipment such as scissors, staplers and play dough tools purposely. We will be busy mark making using ribbons like fireworks, making our own clay Diva lamps, weaving our own birthday chains and through continuous provision.

Communication and Language - There will be lots of opportunities to develop our speaking & listening skills through literacy, role play, circle times and play. We will be looking at retelling stories, speaking confidently in a small group and listening to each other.

SPECIFIC AREAS:

Literacy (reading and writing) - In Foundation 2, as well as the daily Read, Write, Inc sessions we will be focusing on being able to hold our own simple sentence and writing it independently, hearing and writing all sounds within a word and transferring our RWI knowledge into our writing. Some children will be using some super connectives and describing words to make their sentences more exciting

In Foundation 1, some children will continue with Read, Write Inc and others will be focusing on Rhyming and Alliteration, as well as learning a sound a week. The children may bring in an object beginning with that letter and we will learn how to say the sound, write the sound and look at different things that begin with that sound. We will be mark marking/writing our own celebration cards, invitations and letters/lists to Santa!

Mathematics - In F2 we will be still be practising our number recognition and focusing on sharing, halving doubling, shapes and patterns.

In F1 We will be still be looking at numbers and counting but we will be focusing on colours, shapes and patterns.

Understanding the World - Recognising similarities and differences will be a big part of our learning this term

We will share and explore how our own and different families and cultures celebrate special times and compare them to our own., We will also look the change from Autumn to Winter.

Expressive Arts and Design - Within this area we will use all our senses to look, touch, hear, taste and smell a range of experiences including a real bonfire, tasting Indian food and taking part in Indian dancing.

Ways to help your child:

- Encourage your child to be **independent** - Putting their own coat on ,getting dressed for PE and putting their own belongings in their drawer.
- Encourage your child every morning to find their name and write their name on their own name card (F1)
- Practise writing their name at home in fun ways - foam bath letters, magnetic letters, using a paintbrush and water, chalk outside etc,
- Encourage your child to listen carefully, speak clearly, follow instructions accurately;
- Spend time together sharing books (3 times a week) you could: discuss the pictures, model how to hold a book, turn the pages, count the words on the page, look for any sounds they recognise. Remember to record it in your child's home-school reading diary. Every week that your child reads at **least 3** times they will be moved up on the 'Racing Readers' and receive a prize after 8 weeks!
- Look for numbers, letters and words in the environment - model reading signs and words;
- Practise letter sounds and counting
- In the achievement basket record your child's achievements so that we can celebrate and share them at school;
- In your child's Home Learning book, look for home learning tasks and complete them together - encouraging your child to do as much as possible by themselves. Home learning will be sent out every other Friday and needs to be returned by the following Friday.

Just a reminder:

- Please bring your child's book bag with their home-school diary **everyday**. If your child does not bring their book bag they may miss their reading day and books **will not** get changed.
- Mrs Troth (Charlie's mum) has very kindly offered to bake with a group of children every **Wednesday**. We ask for a contribution of **50p per week** to help buy the ingredients.
- Snack bar is every Thursday. Toast and Cereal bars **25p**
- Please ensure **ALL** items of clothing, bags and shoes have your child's name clearly marked. Then any lost items can be returned quickly to their rightful owner.

Donations

- Thank you so much for all your junk model resources we have been very busy making lots of wonderful creations we have been amazed by your generosity and will we will let you know when we are running low!
- New drainpipes, old blankets or bed covers, bread or milk crates we would love to use to build dens and use in our outdoor area.
- Spare clothes - We are always very grateful for any old uniforms, socks, underwear which no longer fit your children. Please if your child does come home in spare clothes can you return them asap!

Other things you may need to know:

We will be starting New day this half term now that the children are settled into Foundation 1.

New day is a whole school behaviour system and we have decided to use it in Foundation 1 so they begin to understand it ready for Foundation 2.

- **New Day: New Day is our online behaviour scheme** where by we give children different coloured cards. **You can log on at home** and see what grade of card your child has been given each day. Information on this will be given out within the next week or so.

Gold = I have impressed my teacher & excelled in my learning 😊

Green = I have shown good looking, good listening, can do terrific tidying and super sitting 😊

White = I am not behaving in the way I should. This is a warning and a chance to change my behaviour.

Yellow = I still am not behaving in the way I should even after my warning - I am shouting out, not listening, been unkind to my friends 😞

Red = I have hurt someone 😞

* **Website:** Just a polite reminder our website address is as follows:

<http://www.woodsettsprimary.co.uk/>

On here you can find updates, lunchtime menus, diary dates and other important information.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. If there is ever anything you want to discuss however big or small our doors are always open!

If you would like to contact a member of the Unit:

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