

How you can help your child:

- Reading and sharing books with your child. As a school we are focusing on developing the children's vocabulary skills. We would be grateful if you could focus on the meaning of new words when you are reading stories with your children. The stories you read to them will contain a wider range of vocabulary than their reading books.
- Helping them to learn to read the phase 2 and 3 tricky words by sight.
- Encouraging your child to segment and blend words orally so that they can confidently distinguish the sounds in words.
- Talking with your child about the things they see whilst out and about and encouraging them to look for numbers and shapes around them.
- Helping them to count on and back from different numbers within and including twenty.

Please continue to let us know of anything significant that your child does at home. Please use a post-it note to write down their achievements dating and signing them. Your child can then stick these post-it notes into their learning journeys.

If you have any worries or concerns or just want to know how your child is getting on at school please don't hesitate to contact me.

Emma Hillier

Kestrel's Curriculum Newsletter



Spring Term 2019

Eureka!

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas.

Our theme this term is 'Eureka' and it will give the children endless opportunities to explore their own ideas, investigate and find ways to solve problems. The children will be encouraged to ask and answer lots of questions.

Following many requests from the children we are starting this term by exploring dinosaurs (they're my favourite too!) I am sure there will be lots of those 'Eureka' moments to be had. As always we will be following the children's own ideas and interests and are never quite sure where they will end up taking us.

We will continue to spend lots of time exploring outdoors, developing our skills in all areas of the curriculum so please ensure that your child has wellies and a waterproof coat in school. They will also need shorts, t-shirt and pumps in a pump bag for indoor PE.

Expressive arts and Design

We will be:

- Working together to develop our role and imaginative play areas and playing in them.
- Exploring what happens when we mix different colours together.
- Developing our drawing and painting skills.
- Listening and moving to different to different kinds of music and identifying contrasts such as fast and slow and loud and quiet.
- Using instruments and voices to create our own music and performing it for others.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be:

- Continuing to learn to work as part of a group and class taking turns and sharing fairly.
- Discussing ways to keep safe.
- Talking about what makes us special and unique.
- Exploring the whole school themes of fairness, friendliness, patience, service and respect,



Communication Language and Literacy

We will be:

- Continuing with our daily phonics sessions, recapping phase 2 and continuing with Phase 3.
- Working together to plan our role play areas and using these areas to develop speaking and listening and reading and writing skills. Our first role play area will be a post office which links really well to the first texts that we will be sharing, 'Dear Dinosaur'; by Chae Strathie and 'T Rex on Tour' by the same author.
- Reading and exploring other texts including, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Elmer'.
- Exploring rhyming words, Learning poems and performing them together.
- Retelling stories using drama and puppets.



Maths

We will be:

- Continuing to develop our understanding of more and less and using the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting to solve practical problems.
- Counting on and back from numbers to 20 and beyond
- Learning to count aloud in two's, fives and tens.
- Ordering, recognising and writing numbers
- Estimating groups of objects that can be seen and counting them to find out how many there are altogether.
- Exploring 2D and 3D shapes in our environment.
- Exploring the maths opportunities in our shared texts and play.



Understanding of the World

We will be:

- Exploring our environment and responding to different kinds of weather. (Fingers crossed we will have the opportunity to explore and investigate snow and ice)
- Sharing our own experiences and talking about families.
- Designing and building bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff.
- Using our senses to explore materials.
- Exploring the festivals of Chinese New Year and Easter.

Physical Development

We will be:

- Continuing with our morning exercises and working to develop our balance skills.
- Continuing to develop our throwing and catching skills.
- Continuing to develop our skills with scissors.
- Tackling a weekly construction challenge-learning how to join things together and create moving parts.
- Exploring ways of travelling through, over, under a range of equipment.
- Continuing to develop our pencil skills writing names and other words from memory and beginning to form the letters of the alphabet accurately in a cursive style.