

January 2021

Curriculum Letter for Sunflower and Daisy Classes



Dear Parents,



This term's BIG question: What if we went to the woods today?



This is our enquiry this term and will therefore be the focus for all of our learning.

Our enquiry will be led by your children, giving them the opportunity to ask and write questions that will drive this



topic. These questions will be referred to as our umbrella questions.



All areas of the curriculum shall be covered under this topic.

Each week we shall post a 'Parent Plan' on Class Do jo; this will tell you what we are covering in school that week and how you could help at home.

Maths

We are going to be investigating many different mathematic topics this term.

We will pay particular attention to numbers to 5 and then to 10; making comparisons and beginning to explore the mathematical language of equal, add and subtract. During our explorations of number we will also explore pattern, shape and size. We will explore brand new math's tools such as five and tens frames, part whole models and the numberline. The children will continue to use lots of manipulatives (physical resources) to support them to understand new mathematical concepts, giving them the opportunity to explain and showcase reasoning and understanding. The children will have many opportunities to apply all new knowledge in different ways to ensure we all become MASTERS OF OUR MATHS.



Look out for the numbers when you are out with your child – encourage them to be a number detective. Count at home – how many stairs, how many cups needed at teatime, how many cushions on the sofa. There are numbers to count everywhere! Compare numbers, perhaps the age of your child and their sibling or the number of people in your house and next door. Use things to build numbers, like lego or balls of playdough or even pieces of pasta 😊



Reading



Throughout the spring term, we will be learning lots more letter sounds including many digraphs (two letters that make one sound). The children will become sound spotters and phonic experts. They will continue to apply their phonic knowledge to decode words for reading and begin to recognise many by sight, including high frequency and tricky words that we cannot sound out. Look out for more reading friends in your child's reading record as these help them to build up all the strategies needed to be a superstar, fluent reader.

We all know in Daisies and Sunflowers that 'Reading makes us brainy, brainy, brainy!'

They will have many opportunities to explore books this term, using e books and paperback books. We will learn more about the parts of the books and what makes up a story. There will be masses of opportunities for storytelling giving the children lots of knowledge to become little authors themselves.

Please log into Oxford Reading Buddy at home to explore the eBooks your child can read their in addition to their library and school reading book. Don't forget to record the reading you and your child do at home in their reading record and remember reading at home means reading prizes at school. Please encourage your child to attempt reading words they see around them. There are opportunities to read everywhere 😊

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



Writing



In Literacy during this topic, we will be exploring lots of fairytales and other stories, which are set in the woods. We will be focusing our writing based around these. The children will continue to be encouraged to hear sounds in words, applying their phonic knowledge to the writing of their words, as well as recalling 'tricky words' which we cannot sound out. They will be differentiating between what a word is, what a sentence is and what makes up each of them. The children will have many opportunities to write in different ways, giving them a broad understanding of the purposes for writing. This will include writing stories, letters, notes, posters, lists, menus, recipes and more.

We will continue to practise our kinetic letters daily. We have now learnt how to form the letters correctly from the jumper and abracadabra family and are now moving towards the window cleaner, fisher and squirter family letters.

The children explore handwriting in many exciting ways using all sorts of resources such as; pens, pencils, chalk, paintbrushes, in sand, salt and slime, just to mention a few. This then transfers onto paper giving the confidence to form letters and build fluency when doing so 😊


You can help by encouraging your child to practise forming their letters in many different ways as mentioned above, by writing cards to family members, to helping write the shopping list by listening carefully to the sounds in the words, by encouraging them to label the wonderful pictures they draw and by letting them watch you write too.

Other things to remind you;

- Home Learning splats will be put on Class Dojo during the first few weeks of the term. Please keep your eye out for this and return any learning to school within the term. These will then be showcased at the end of each term.
- Our PE lesson will be on **Wednesdays**. Your child can come to school dressed in their kits.
- All children do need a **change of clothes**; in case of accidents. Children are usually happier to be changed into their own things, rather than any spares we might have. These can be kept in their lockers too.
- Please ensure that your child has a pair of **wellies** in their locker. This will ensure they can access the outdoors at all times. We will be using this area for our learning all year round and in all weathers and would therefore like to ensure a distinction between outdoor and indoor shoes.
- Our **Forest School** day is **Monday**. This may be a particularly muddy day so please bear this in mind! We go outside whatever the weather!
- Our library day is usually a Thursday but sometimes this does change so please keep an eye out for reminders on Dojo.
- Water bottles will be sent home every Friday for washing, please ensure that this is returned every Monday so that your child has access to a drink throughout the day. The children also use their water bottles at lunchtime. If we have to issue your child a new water bottle you will be charged £1.50 via our parent pay system.
- Please also keep an eye out on Class Dojo for other announcements that may arise.

Upcoming Events:

- 28.1.22 – MUFTI day – Silly Dress Day children can come to school dressed strangely! All donations for the Friends of St James
- 4.2.22 – Number Day
- 10.2.22 - Pantomime comes to St James
- 10.2.22 – Term 3 finishes
- 11.2.22 - Training Day

 If you have any questions or queries, please do send us a message on Dojo or arrange an appointment to have a chat through the office.

Best wishes, Miss Cooney, Mrs Finch, Mrs Davies and Mrs Malinowska 😊