

**CHILD INITIATED LEARNING (PLAY):** A significant part of our day is dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). It is in moments of curiosity, effort or interest – the ‘teachable’ moment – that the adult makes a difference. The adults are always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child’s thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children’s wellbeing and learning (planning for the next moment). There will be three Focus Children each week. These children are given an additional focus for these 1:1 ‘In the Moment’ teaching opportunities. At the end of the week a record of all these learning opportunities will be uploaded to Tapestry alongside the associated photos and videos. ‘Wow’ moments of learning throughout the week for all children will be recorded on Tapestry alongside this approach.

**PHONICS & READING** We will continue through the Read Write Inc scheme for phonics teaching. This term we will be learning the Set 1 sounds and beginning to blend these sounds to read words. Last term we have learnt ‘m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y’. The approximate plan for this term is: 02.11 ‘w z x’; 09.11 ‘sh ch th’; 16.11 ‘qu ng nk’; 23.11 Reviewing Set 1 sounds and blending. The Oxford Owl website provides resources for parents to support your own understanding of phonics and also ideas on how to support your child <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

The children have all now received books for home. Most of these are the wordless picture books to develop story language, discussions and initial phonics. This will then progress to Sound books which include short words using the sounds we have learnt to begin to develop their blending skills (knowing c-a-t is ‘cat’). We then move onto the ‘Ditties’. It is very important to support your children to regularly explore these books. Please use the reading record books we provide to record when they read, how much they read and how they got on. These reading records and books should be brought into school every day to enable in class reading and book changes. Within the RWI scheme the timing of book changes is very clear and the books should be read at least 3 times at home to develop fluency and understanding as well as the mechanics of deciphering the words. We will ensure we set up school systems for managing book changes to minimise any potential transmission risks.

**MATHS** We follow the White Rose Maths scheme. The children will continue to have a daily maths lesson. We will be using Numberblocks to support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on exploring the numbers to 5, developing an understanding of one more and one less. We will also investigate shapes, coins and patterns. Alongside our whole class teaching there is the continual opportunity for children to develop these skills during their own play. Although sequences can alter, the plan is: 02.11 ‘Exploring 2, including money and time’; 09.11 ‘Exploring 3, triangles, time, comparing to 1 and 2’; 16.11 ‘Exploring 4, squares and rectangles, time’; 23.11 ‘Exploring 5, money and time’; 30.11/07.12 ‘One more and one less’; 14.12 ‘Review of patterns, shapes, time and money’.

**HELICOPTER STORIES** Children are natural storytellers. In FC we encourage the children to ‘tell’ us their stories. These are scribed by the adult into our special storybook. The stories are scribed exactly as the children tell them. We will then sit as a class and the children are able to act out their stories alongside other children taking on other roles in their story. This develops a huge variety of skills including communication, literacy and confidence. Photographs of your child’s story will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to be able to read.

**MESSAGE CENTRE** This approach has been developed to sprinkle joy, excitement and a love of messaging into their play. This begins with secret symbols then moves to letters and words and the children hide and find these messages around our classroom and in their play. It aims to give children the confidence to have a go at mark-making/writing; it allows them to be creative and use their imagination and discover real purposes to writing. We have a message centre area in the classroom. Perhaps your child will begin hiding secret messages at home too! We also have the excitement of our Sponsored Secret Messages on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**DRAWING CLUB** These sessions explore the magic of stories through drawings. It aims to develop language skills, vocabulary, mark-making, mathematics and their imaginative skills. The stories we will be using are There’s a Bear on my Chair, The Tiger who Came to Tea, Room on the Broom and Aliens Love Underpants.

**RE and PSHE** In RE we will be exploring the idea of “What is Christmas?” We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be “Celebrating Difference”.

**WOODLANDS** On Monday afternoons we will explore our on-site woodland. We aim to develop an enjoyment and curiosity of nature. This term our focus will be Autumn changes, spiders, bird feeders and learning about hedgehogs. We are also developing the woodland learning area. We have all-in-one waterproofs and wellies for the children to use but you are welcome to provide your own wellies if you prefer (please ensure they are named clearly and in a bag). Your children need to have coats, hats and gloves as necessary for the weather. We have developed a nature area of the classroom and aim to develop these fascinations and curiosities throughout the week beyond the woodland visits.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- As part of the ‘Focus Child’ approach, we will continue to send home an information sheet for you to contribute to when it is your child’s week. Please complete and return these to school as requested.
- Please ensure all belongings brought to school are named clearly. This helps us to get stray items back to the correct owner quickly!
- Please remember to bring in a named water bottle each day.
- A fruit snack is provided for the children to access freely during the morning. Milk is also available via the Cool Milk scheme.
- Ensure there is a change of clothes in their bags.
- We have weekly opportunities for Dough Disco, Yoga and Dance to develop our fine and gross motor skills.
- We have our virtual parents’ evenings during the week of 9<sup>th</sup> November. This will provide an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school. A link to the meeting will be emailed to you.
- We will be creating a Christmas show for our ‘Outcome’ this term. This will be a little different this year with restrictions in place, however, we are determined to ensure the children can have some fun and magic at Christmas time. The play will be recorded for you to view at home. We will update you as soon as possible about costume requirements!