

We hope you have all had a wonderful half term break. Our theme for this half term is 'Mystery and Magic'

Child Initiated Learning (Play): A significant part of our day is dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). It is in these moments of curiosity and 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 and for these children we will also record these 'teachable moments'. This is uploaded to Tapestry at the end of their Focus week. 'Wow' moments of learning throughout the week for all children will be recorded on Tapestry alongside this approach.

Phonics and Reading We will continue to learn the last group of Set 1 sounds – including the 'special friends', so called because they are two letters which when they are together make a new sound. The special friends are sh ch th qu ng nk. We will continue to develop our ability to orally blend, e.g. We would say 'c-a-t' and the children will know that makes 'c-a-t'. Once children are orally blending, we can move to reading words. Some texts will include what are known as 'Red words' These words need to be learnt by sight as we cannot use our phonics to decipher them. This term we will explore 'I' and 'the'.

It is very important that children are sharing their books regularly at home with you. Please record in their Reading Record and ensure both are in their school bag every day.

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/>

Maths We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme. We will be using Numberblocks to further support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on exploring shapes, coins and time. We will develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 5 and how these numbers can be made. The children will develop their understanding of one more and one less. We will also continue to develop our subitising skills – recognising an amount without counting it. Alongside our whole class teaching there is the continual opportunity for children to develop these skills during their own play.

Helicopter Stories There have been some wonderful stories told already for our book and it has been fantastic to see the children becoming more confident to take on roles in each other's stories when we are performing them. This term we will continue to scribe these stories. We will then sit as a class and the children act out their stories. 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. This is all part of our co-play and engaging children in wonder of the world and the joy to be found in writing. 'Bpb the Brick' appeared in our class and is our messaging portal with the Minpins! Perhaps your child will begin hiding secret messages at home too.

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. This term some of the stories we will be using are 'What's in the witch's kitchen?' 'Aliens love underpants', 'Room on the broom' and 'Not now, Bernard'.

RE and PSHE In RE we will be exploring "What is Christmas?". Within this unit we will explore the role of 'giving' and learn about the Christmas story. We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be "Celebrating Difference". We will focus on developing our awareness of our own strengths and explore kindness.

P.E. We will have our PE session on a Friday morning. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school each Friday. This term we will be developing our gymnastics and focusing on balancing and jumping skills.

Woodlands and Nature Study Once a week we will continue to explore our on-site woodland. We aim to develop an enjoyment and curiosity of nature. This term our focus will be 'Autumn' and will also include learning about spiders,

hedgehogs and birds. We have all-in-one waterproofs and wellies for the children to use. 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.

Dough Disco, Cosmic Yoga and Just Dance We have sessions using one of these approaches several times a week. These aim to develop both gross and fine motor skills alongside our listening and attention.

Bright Ideas Time This is a whole school science initiative which we have adapted in FC. Every week we will explore 'Big questions' or discuss 'Odd one out'. These questions have visual prompts and allow the children to share their own ideas and thinking where there are no 'right' answers.

Music Time During our music and singing we will be exploring representing fireworks using our instruments. We will then be learning and performing the songs for our Christmas outcome.

General Information

- **Name Everything!** If you do not have access to labels, stickers or a sharpie pen then please ask one of the FC staff and we will very happily write your child's name in for you.
- Ensure your child has at least one set of spare clothes in their school bag every day.
- Remember to bring a named water bottle into school each day.
- A fruit snack is provided each day for the children's snack. There is also milk available via the Cool Milk scheme.
- As part of the 'Focus Child' approach, we will 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.
- Ensure you are regularly reading together at home, both their school reading book and also other stories you may have.
- The children can continue to borrow story books from our class library.
- Communication - We will be available at the end of the school day if there are any questions you have or anything we can help with. Alternatively, please email the school office and they can forward messages to us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Dates:

- Parent Consultation evenings – Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th November
- Nasal flu immunisations – Tuesday 9th November
- Vision screening – Monday 15th November
- Foundation Class Performance 'Snowmen at Sunset' – Thursday 9th December at 9.30 am