

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope that you have all had a wonderful Easter break.
Our theme for this half term is 'Minibeasts'

Child Initiated Learning (Play): A significant part of our day will continue to be dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). This is an incredibly valuable time for developing curiosity and problem-solving and provides the opportunity to embed new skills whilst learning new ones. 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 This term we will be consolidating our recognition of all Set 1 sounds and develop onto the Set 2 sounds (long vowel sounds 'ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy'). We will be developing our fluency with our reading and deepening our independent writing skills. We have completed recent phonics assessments again and the children will be working within groups to meet their stage of phonics learning. The staff within Foundation rotate each week so we all work with each group in turn.

It is very important that children are sharing their reading 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 building numbers beyond 10 and developing an understanding of the counting system beyond 10. We will be deepening our understanding of addition and subtraction. 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 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. 'Bob the Brick' continues to act as 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 'Superworm', 'The Bad-tempered Ladybird' and 'What the Ladybird Heard'.

RE and PSHE In RE we will be exploring “What can we learn from stories?”. We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be “Relationships”. We will focus on developing our understanding of our relationships and how to build positive relationships

P.E. Until the swimming pool roof is fixed we will continue to have a PE session. This will continue to be on a Friday morning. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school each Friday (please see the uniform details on the website and ensure there are no flashing light trainers). This term we will be developing our balance, coordination and control and begin to explore different athletic activities.

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 ‘Spring’ and will also include learning about butterflies, spring flowers, beans, tadpoles, clouds and storms. We have all-in-one waterproofs and wellies for the children to use. 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 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 this term we will begin to follow the Charanga scheme of work. We will also be exploring different minibeast inspired songs, rhymes and music.

General Information

- **Please 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. This is especially important as the weather warms up. We will refill bottles during the day and encourage a lot of drinks breaks, especially in the warmer weather.
- As the weather warms up please ensure that your child has a named sunhat available and named suncream in their bag. The children need to apply this independently, but we will do this as a whole class when the weather deems it necessary and will ‘advise’ your child to ensure skin is covered. During very warm weather we will also teach the children about sun safety and seek shady areas in the hottest parts of the 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. This must be coming back into school each day.
- 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:

- Friday 6th May - Drama workshop ‘Superheroes’
- Monday 16th May - Farm visit to school. The children will have the opportunity to learn about caring for a variety of animals who will be set up on our school field as a ‘mini farm’.
- Tuesday 24th May - Foundation Class Outcome at 2.30pm-3.00pm
- Friday 27th May - Jubilee lunch party at school