

Growth and Green Fingers – Spring 1

Welcome back Tigers! I hope you have all had wonderful Christmas and New Year! I hope everyone has had lots of rest after our busy Christmas term and are ready for our new topic 'Growth and Green Finger'. It is a very exciting topic and we have a lot to learn!

Literacy

To our topic we will be looking at instruction writing. We will be giving instructions and following instructions to plant seeds before moving on to write a set of instructions. We will then move on to exploring fairy tales, our focus book for this term is Jack and the Beanstalk. As part of our Literacy sessions we will role play the events, ask questions, make predictions and change elements of the story. We will recognise the key features of a traditional fairy tale and will work towards re writing the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. To finish off the term we will explore traditional rhymes and will focus on 'Mary, Mary quite contrary', this will further aid our work on capital letters for people's names.

Each literacy session is structured to include a 10 minute focus on developing sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation. As we continue to work on our cursive handwriting we will also enjoy lots of practical sessions where we can continue to develop the formation of letters.

Phonics will continue to take place daily as we begin to go through Phase 5 sounds. In our writing area we have lots of phonics based activities to enhance children's reading and writing when they are working independently. We also have a writing area where there will be a range of Jack and the Beanstalk related activities for the children to have a go at.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will continue to develop the skills we have introduced over the last two terms. We will read and interpret a range of mathematical statements including addition, subtraction and equal signs. We will continue to revise number bonds to 5, 6, 7 and 10, compare and order numbers to 20 and work on counting forwards and backwards to 100. The children will become more confident in identifying one more or one less than any given number. This term we are focusing on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and we will begin to spot patterns using the 100 square. We will also explore the names of 3D shapes and begin to identify their properties.

To support and challenge the children, a maths area has been set up in the classroom that focuses on number. Our role play area this term is a Garden Centre, where the children have an opportunity to become more confident in recognising and using different coins.

RE

The children will explore Baptism this term. The children will explore what it means to be part of the Willows community and be able to recognise we are all part of God's family. The children will explore the importance of the key elements in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will visit the Willows Church and recognise the area where the Baptism would take place.

Science

Our topic this term focuses on plants and growth. Through a range of investigation we will explore the plant structure, different types of plants and what a plant needs to survive. As part of our investigation we will be spending time in the School Woods. **If parents would like their children to wear wellies when exploring outside then please do send them in.**

The Garden Centre role play area is a chance for the children to extend their learning further. At the end of the term we will be able to plant our own Sunflower Seeds to take home and grow.

Design Technology

In DT this term we focus on identifying fruit and vegetables. We begin the term by discussing what makes a healthy diet. We will then move on to using our senses to taste a range of different fruits. Through research, design and planning the children will work towards making a fruit salad for a party as their final product. The children will recognise the importance of evaluating their product for further improvements. As we look at many well know products we begin to recognise the development cycle that food organisations use. The children will work on using equipment safely, following instructions, working accurately and using measures.

Art

In Art we will continue to experiment with a range of different medias, identify primary colours and experiment with line and tone. In the theme 'Growth and Green Fingers' we will complete observational drawings of an Apple, using a range of different medias. The children will focus on adding shading, tone and detail to their apple shape. We look at Andy Warhol's designs as we will create a printing piece based on his use of colour and repetition. Towards the end of the term will move on to using watercolour paints where we will focus on our painting technique.

Music

The children will continue to work with Miss Mallinson this term and will focus on developing their expressive voices, recognising rhythm and rhyme and creating music pieces.

PE

The children will work on developing their gymnastic and dance skills this term. Both sessions will perfectly complement each other as we work to develop balance, coordination and sequencing with the children.

PE will take place on a Tuesday with myself and Wednesday with Mr Wylde. Please ensure all children have their PE kits in school on these days and that they are not wearing any jewellery.

PSHE

Our topic this term is 'Say No to Bullying'. The children will focus on working as a team, making the right choices and being a good friend to others. We will explore how we can recognise other people's feelings and emotions. We will work on managing feelings, working together and seeing things from another point of view.

Computing

We begin the term by recapping internet safety and digital research that we have explored last term. This term we will use a plant simulator to explore how we can grow and care for a plant in the virtual world of technology. As we begin to explore how computers respond to a range of instructions we will use the Beebots to navigate and respond to a set of commands.

Geography

Although Geography is not a lead subject this term, we will continue to track the weather and identify the different seasons. The children will be able to recognise how plants are affected through the change of the seasons. We will continue to track our Tiger's tree and take pictures to show how it continues to change.

Reading

Daphne's diary has been an exciting part of our first term in Tiger's Class. This term we are learning all about Fairy tales, so as part of our new topic Donald takes on a new role as a story teller. This term a story sack will be sent home for your child to enjoy, it is full of suggested activities that the children can choose from. Children's reading books will continue to be checked and changed on a daily basis. Guided Reading

will take place every week and will focus on developing the children's language comprehension through asking questions.

We also have the reading garden in Tiger's class this term that is a space where the children can enjoy a range of books and develop their phonics learning further.

Help at home: Please encourage your child to read every night to extend their vocabulary and develop a passion for reading. To help develop comprehension skills, please ask questions to the children about the book that they are reading. This will help them to develop their word recognition alongside their understanding of what they have read. Please do keep referring to the tricky words list on the reading information handouts; this will encourage your child to recognise words that are not phonetically decodable.

Children will also be allocated books on Phonics Bug which they can read at their own pace.

Homework

The children will continue to be set numeracy homework on a weekly basis. The homework will be set on a Friday to be returned the following Friday. We will also continue to set spellings as a handwriting task, but please do help your child to memorise the spellings too. Active learn has a range of maths related games and grammar related games that the children can access from home. Such games are designed to recap what that the children have learned throughout the week.

Please do not hesitate to come and see after school should you have any concerns.

Kindest Regards

Miss Cross