

Starlings

Term 2 – 2024 - 2025

In **English** the children will continue working on activities that develop their phonic knowledge and use of letter sounds for reading and spelling. This term there will be a focus on homophones (meet / meat made / maid) and a range of suffixes that are added to words e.g. ing / ed / ly / ness etc. Activities that increase children's spoken and sight vocabulary continue to be a priority as do the strategies required for tackling unknown words for reading and spelling. The text type we will focus on this term is 'instructions'. Teaching will focus on the features of this text type but will also include work on sentence construction, punctuation and verb and noun agreement. In their writing, the children will be encouraged to recognise and use the layout of instructions and use action verbs to start each step. In reading I will be stressing the importance of reading for meaning / understanding. I will be encouraging the children to ask about any new words they encounter. I will also be asking questions about the text that requires the children to quote words or phrases as their answer. There will be three sessions of handwriting each week when I will teach letters in the 'l' family (l h b k t f). I will also be focussing on the formation of all capital letters.

In **P.E** we are lucky to have Mr Mitchell teaching dance on Fridays this term and I will be doing a gymnastics lesson on Mondays where the theme is 'body shapes' (until we start practising the Christmas show!).

In **computing** the children will be exploring the features of Purple Mash and using it to develop their knowledge of online safety and to do some sorting, grouping and data handling in maths.

In **science** we need to finish our work on 'Animals' needs for survival' and do the lessons on humans before we move on to this term's focus 'materials'. The children will learn about the names and properties of a range materials and how certain materials are suitable for specific purposes. Lessons focus on natural and made materials and how materials can be changed. We will be investigating what happens to materials when they are left in water, heated and burnt. Lessons will focus on the children being able to say what it is we are trying to find out (What is our scientific question?), say what we predict, what we did, what we found out and how we made the investigation fair.

Toys



Our **topic** this term is 'toys'. The children will start by sharing what they know about current toys and then move onto the **history** of toys, investigating toys from the past. We will be looking at early 20th Century and Victorian toys. We will compare toys from the past to those that children play with now and discuss how they are similar and different. This will link well with our science focus on materials because toys were quite different before the invention of plastic. The children will sequence toys from the last century on a timeline. They will also learn about different types of historical sources which will hopefully include some visitors coming into the class.

Maths work continues to involve counting, ordering and writing numbers to at least 100. The children will continue partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones and using this to aid their calculations. The majority of learning this term focuses on addition and subtraction. I will be reinforcing the relationship between the two and encouraging the children to use known addition facts to answer subtraction e.g. $12 + 8 = 20$ for $20 - 12 = 8$ and $20 - 8 = 12$. I will be teaching difference as a useful strategy to solve subtractions. This term I shall also focus on worded problems ... 'Brian has half the number of toys that his sister has. If she has 12 toys how many does he have?' and ... 'If 6 of the 13 people on a bus get off, how many are left on the bus?' There will also be a focus on missing number calculations e.g. $6 + \square = 11$ / $12 - \square = 10$. I shall continue to focus on learning number facts for +, - and x and am going to start with a focus on pairs of numbers that = 10 and 20 and pairs of multiples of 10 that = 100. We will be playing a range of games that help the children learn and use these develop an automatic answer to questions. A focus throughout the term will in addition to number will be the names and properties of 2 and 3D shapes. We will end the term with Christmas maths involving both shape and number.

After a very successful **art** topic last term I spent longer than planned on the 'Making a mark' lessons so didn't fit in the clay tile work. (I did a one-off lesson making clay pumpkins which I hope you all appreciated.) I am hoping to fit in an extra topic lesson each week so that the children can do the clay lessons this term. The lessons will involve shaping and joining clay along with mark making on clay.

The theme in **R.E** is 'Christianity'. The central question this term is 'What is Christmas?' which will look at the Christmas story and why it is important to Christians.