

Term 5 Newsletter – Pre-School (Turtle Class)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely Easter and are all feeling rested and well! We have an exciting term ahead and hopefully the weather will start to look a bit better too! As the weather gets warmer, please apply sun cream before attending Pre-School and provide a hat for your child to wear as I only have a few spares!

The Pre-School team:

Beth Baker

Claire

Class Teacher

Learning Support Assistant

Enquiry Question this term: I wonder what I will be when I am older?

This term we will be focussing on occupations! We are going to explore which jobs we think we might like to do when we are older and learn about the different people who can help us! This will include finding out about the emergency services, teachers, vets as well as other jobs such as astronauts (which will link to our key texts) and paleontologists (as we have lots of dinosaur lovers this year!).

Learn Together

This term our learn together sessions will be focussing on special events such as Earth Day, Mental Health Week and Dinosaur Day! We will also begin to explore how some children may be feeling about moving on to Reception and what we can expect from this transition.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus in particular on Article 14: You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

We will be referring to this a lot over this term as we think about how we can develop our friendships and be kind to others.

Communication and Language, Literacy and Phonics

Communication and Language

Our focus this term is around making conversation! We have developed our snack time routine to have a 'café' style snack to help use this time to develop our conversational skills. We will also work on this during our Learn Together sessions by introducing a "No Hands Up" rule that will support the children to be respectful and take turns during discussions and bounce off each others ideas!

Literacy

For all our children we will be working on adding meaning to the marks that we make. We will be taking the time to discuss the children's drawings and support them to tell us more about what they have made! For some of the older children, we will be beginning to have a go at writing some of the letters in our names, developing our pencil grip and fine motor skills.

Phonics

Our phonics focus this term is on rhythm and rhyme. We will play lots of fun games to start to recognise and identify rhyming words and notice them in stories too. By the end of the term, we will hopefully begin to be able to think of our own rhyming words. We will also develop our understanding of rhythm by clapping out syllables in words and moving in time to music at different tempos.

Maths

This first half of this term will be focussed on developing our positional language including: in, on, under, in front of and behind. Once we have learnt this language we will then have a go at putting this into context by giving our peers instructions! The second half of the term will be a recap on some of our key learning across the year so far such as practicing our repeated patterns and consolidating our number recognition and subitising numbers to 3 (recognising that there are 3 objects without needing to count).

Wider Curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be focussing on how we can be confident in trying new activities and further developing our independence and resilience. I will be using our tryatops lots to support those children to develop their 'have a go' mindset.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our focus this term is on developing our small world play by introducing different elements to create more detailed worlds in our play. I am also hoping to introduce some more complex construction kits to continue to challenge the children's imagination.

Understanding the World

This term we will be learning about occupations as per our enquiry questions as well as having a more science-based learning time to begin to understand about concepts such as floating and sinking, freezing and melting and pushing and pulling.

Physical Development

For our fine motor skills, we will continue to develop these through different activities such as dough disco and using tools such as tweezers and scissors.
For gross motor skills, we will be developing our jumping and balancing skills and begin to introduce some of the sports day games so that we can be successful on the day!

Home Learning

Reading

Please read stories with your child at home! To support our learning at school, you could encourage your child to join in with some of the repeated phrases that occur in their favourite stories! This is great for children's language development.

Maths

Please support children to develop their counting skills by modelling how to count in different scenarios. This could be counting the steps as you go up and down the stairs or counting the number of toys during play! You could also use mathematical language during playtime with your child such as "I've built a **tall** tower" or "This car is **bigger** than your car" and recognise shapes and numbers around the house or on walks to support your child's maths learning.

Pre-School & Reception

Please see the parent maths booklet for ideas on play-based activities to help your child with key mathematical skills. A copy is in the year group Google Drive folder.

There is also a home learning section with short videos relating to each of the small steps listed earlier in this newsletter. <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning>

Other important information/notes for the time ahead

Google Drive

class newsletters and other resources/information for parents. The link for this is on our class page on the website. It is:
<https://tinyurl.com/294sa5b9>

Changes to Routine

Please let Beth know if there are any changes in routines at home so we can mirror this at Pre-School and best support your child.

What does my child need to bring into school every day?

- Spare changes of clothes
- Weather appropriate clothing (hat/scarf/gloves if cold and sun hat/ sun cream if hot)
- Wet wipes and nappies for those that need it
- Additional bag for wet/dirty clothes

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss then please either speak to Beth at drop-off/pick-up times or send an email to info@somerdaleet.org.uk and Beth will get back to you as soon as possible. Beth is usually around after-school if you want to have a longer conversation.

Additional Sessions

Please can I remind you to ensure you apply for additional sessions each term when Rachel sends out the form. Thank you!