

9th January 2024 – 9th February 2024

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
Communication and Language	<p>This term we are focusing on how we communicate our ideas and feelings using full sentences to our peers and teachers. We will be working hard to develop our vocabulary, especially during our wider curriculum lessons. This will broaden children's understanding but also encourage them to use new words when communicating.</p> <p>Children are working hard to become effective listeners by ensuring they take turns within a conversation and respond to appropriately to others.</p> <p>We are continuing to use our confident voice, in and around the classroom. This helps communicating clearly within the classroom and school.</p>
<p>How to help at home: Discussing your child's day and the activities they have enjoyed, is a great way of developing your child's sentence extension. Exposing your children to new vocabulary and using this regularly in sentences will also extend your child's understanding.</p>	
Literacy	<p>Talk for Writing Your child will be learning about different characters in stories; how to sequence story narratives and to role-play key moments in texts. They will practise retelling our class story before writing simple sentences drawn from the story. Children will be introduced to the word 'and' and will begin to extend their sentences using this word. We will be using the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. To link to our wider curriculum work, children will be writing simple sentences to factually describe a boat, for example, 'the boat is big and it has a sail'.</p> <p>Sounds-Write (Phonics) Your child is learning an increasing number of the 44 phonemes that make up the words of the English language. They are continuing to practise their blending and segmenting skills and applying them to simple CVC and CVCC words in their reading and writing.</p> <p><u>This term we will be focusing on the sounds:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">j w z x y ff ll ss zz</p> <p>The double letters ll, ff, ss, zz are referred to as digraphs- two letters that make one sound.</p> <p>In addition, your child will also begin to build a repertoire of everyday sight words. For this term your child will learn:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">was, he, she, all, of</p> <p>Writing – Nelson Handwriting Your child is continuing to master the 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and to form their sounds correctly. All writing will be completed on lines. Pupils are writing individual words using their phonic knowledge and starting to write simple perfect sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. The main focus for your child's writing this half term will be finger spaces.</p>
<p>How to help at home: It is important to read with your child every day. This will support their phonic knowledge and build a broad and rich vocabulary, which will support their reading comprehension. Try to close the book after they have finished reading and ask them to tell you about the sounds in simple words contained in the text. For example, "Can you tell me about the sounds in dog?" Your child should be able to begin to say, "d-o-g." This questioning will support application of sounds to their writing as well. It is also important that your child is comprehending what they are reading. Try asking them questions about the book after they have read it. For example, what was the name of the main character?</p> <p>It is essential that your child masters writing their own name on lines, using correctly formed letters. Encourage your child to practice their Perfect Pencil Grip and write at home using a pencil and lined paper. Please use the formation chart included in this letter to support your child with their letter formation.</p>	
Mathematics	<p>During this half term your child will continue to master their subitising skills by continuing to explore patterns within 5, including structured and random arrangements. The children will explore a range of patterns made by numbers greater than 5, including structured patterns in which 5 is a clear part.</p>

	<p>Pupils will explore patterns which show a small group and '1 more' continue to match arrangements to finger patterns.</p> <p>Your child will be counting to 20 and beyond. They will continue to develop their object counting skills, using a range of strategies to develop accuracy.</p> <p>The children are continuing to explore the composition of 5 and practise recalling 'missing' or 'hidden' parts for 5. They will also be looking at the composition of 6, linking this to familiar patterns, including symmetrical patterns. The children will also begin to see that numbers within 10 can be composed of '5 and a bit'.</p> <p>Your child will also be focusing on composition comparing sets using the language of comparison, and play games which involve comparing sets, by matching and identifying when sets are equal. Your child will explore ways of making unequal sets equal.</p>
<p>How to help at home: This half term we will be running the Mastering Number at Home Parent Project, which will be launched in the upcoming family learning session. This is a 5-week programme of games and activities for you to play at home with your child to develop and deepen their understanding of number. We are excited to see you all at the family learning session on Thursday 18th January 2023 so the project can be explained.</p>	
<p>Knowledge</p> <p>Expressive Art and Design, Understanding the World</p>	<p>Wider Curriculum:</p> <p>This half term we will be focussing our learning on water and boats and exploring the question of 'what impact has engineering had on the lives of humans?'</p> <p>We will first be looking closely at water, exploring the questions of, is all water the same? Why is water important? And how can we cross water safely? This exploration will allow children to have a developing awareness of the role of water in our everyday lives. This will lead onto exploring floating and sinking, as well as designing, building, and testing our own boats in water.</p> <p>Understanding the World:</p> <p>During this half term your child will explore lots of different festivals and cultural celebrations including Burns Night: Scotland (25th January), Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year (10th February), Shrove Tuesday (13th February) and Ash Wednesday (14th February). Children will discover the different ways people celebrate through stories, tasting sessions and music and movement. In conjunction with this our wider curriculum lessons will also have a link to Chinese New Year, with the question of how do the animals cross the river in the zodiac story?</p> <p>Expressive Art and Design:</p> <p>Children will be continuing to explore colour and will be encouraged to develop their own ideas through experimentation through a variety of materials including water colours, oil pastels and collage. The children will also be creating their boats using natural materials, exploring what materials work best for constructing and joining.</p>
<p>How to help at home:</p> <p>To support your child's exploration of water, looking for water sources in and around your house and local area will broaden their knowledge and deepen their understanding. Visiting local ponds and rivers and testing natural materials to see if they float or sink is also another great idea to strengthen this.</p> <p>Have discussions at home with your child about the different ways your families celebrate and the different events that you celebrate within your family. If you would like to come in and share your families experience of a particular festival or celebration, please see your class teacher as we would be delighted to have you.</p>	
<p>Character</p> <p>Personal Social Development, Music, Spanish</p>	<p>Character:</p> <p>Your child is learning about self-control, bravery and leadership and teamwork. Pupils are reading stories about these character virtues and putting them into practice in the classroom and around the wider school. Your child will be taking part in discussions and activities linked to these virtues.</p> <p>Spanish:</p> <p>Children will continue to learn to greet each other in Spanish alongside learning to sing a range of nursery rhymes in Spanish.</p>

	<p>Music: Your child sings with their class every day. This half term the children will be exploring a range of instruments. They will look at how they are played, what they are called and how we can control volume and tempo.</p>
<p>How to help at home: Character: We are continuing to encourage the use of manners throughout the school day. Please help your child to practice using good manners at home. They are also working on self- control by waiting for 'their turn', this is something we recommend practicing at home. If you are looking for character rich texts to support your child's learning, we recommend: 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and 'Alfie's Busy Day'.</p> <p>Music: Please support your child's learning by singing with them and listening to a variety of music and nursery rhymes at home.</p>	
<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>This half term we will begin to take part in pen disco and dough disco sessions. These sessions will support children's fine motor development, isolating and strengthen different muscles in their hands.</p> <p>P.E. is taught every Wednesday, and your child should come to school in their P.E. kit ready for the session. In PE this term, the children will be learning the fundamentals of gymnastics. Within this, they will learn how to create shapes with their body, as well as balance and jump. This will include star and pencil shapes, half turn jumps, and airplane arm balancing.</p>
<p>How to help at home: Please ensure your child eats a healthy balanced diet and arrives at school having eaten a nutritious breakfast or lunch. Details of our breakfast club are available from the school Office. Please support your children to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently and discuss the importance of this.</p> <p>It is essential that your child masters writing their own name, forming letters by starting in the correct place. Encourage your child to practise their 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and write at home using a pencil and paper.</p> <p>You may wish to use dough disco at home using the following Youtube link: Youtube-Early years Emily- playdough Disco</p>	

General reminder – Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day so that they can play outside come rain or shine. As we know, the weather in England can change very rapidly! All blazers, coats and PE kits must be clearly named.

