



Topic Letter Spring Term 1 2025



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”— Dr. Seuss, “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!”

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. We hope you have all had a lovely and relaxing Christmas holiday and that all the children are ready for another exciting half term of fun and learning.

Our topic this half term is 'Toy Story.' This is a fun and very exciting theme which in the past the children have thoroughly enjoyed and engaged in all aspects of learning inside and outside the classroom.

Each week we will follow a focus to our topic and these are:

Week 1 - SCARF week- Cleo the little princess fund/tangled

Week 2 -Space/Buzz Lightyear

Week 3 -Woodyand Jessie - friendships

Week 4-Rex/Dinosaurs 1

Week 5-Rex/Dinosaurs 2

Week 6-Old Toys and some new characters!!

As always, the weeks and the themes may change, nothing is set in stone. The topic lends itself to lots of science through finding out about space and the moon, forces and pushes and pulls, volcanoes and the environment and also the weather - watch out for any budding weather forecasters!

The curriculum will be delivered through play-based learning and hands-on experiences, spread across the 7 areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

Personal, social and emotional - Now that the children are starting to feel more settled in the school environment, we will be encouraging lots of sharing and turn taking. We will be aiming to develop confidence where the children will be talking in groups, listening to what others say and trying to understand how others may feel. We will be thinking about mindfulness and Calm and trying new activities, some work for some and not others. We encourage the children to think that the activities are like trying on new shoes. Some will fit you and some won't, some might fit later and some may

never quite work at all. No worries - they are all activities that we can all explore, adjust, repeat or put away for later!

Communication and language - We will be using our weekly stories as a focus for language. Activities will be based around the retelling of the stories and we will encourage children to incorporate this story language into their imaginative play. During focussed carpet time, children will be taught to describe and answer questions about the story.

It would be useful if you could encourage speech by questioning your child about the week's story and allowing them to retell it to you (or any other little ones in your house!) All of this will help your child develop into a confident communicator.

Physical development - Whilst the children are beginning to write, it is important to develop their fine motor skills. Activities such as playdough and collage making, strengthen fingers and wrists and encourage pencil grip. We will continue to have a PE focused lesson in the hall on a Thursday (hall availability permitting) this half term we will be focusing on dance. We have been developing our outdoor-learning environment for ever and it is an on-going process, the children are encouraged to go outside at all given opportunities and this is where they can practise their gross motor skills advancing their climbing, balancing and jumping. Woodland Wednesday sessions will continue so please make sure your child has lots of warm layers.

Literacy - Daily phonics will continue. Children are making excellent progress. All are at different stages however it is vital that children remember the sounds that they have learnt so far. Many children find an action assigned to each sound beneficial, for example the tummy rub for mmmmm and aeroplane arms for nnnnn. Once familiar, children will recognise sounds in words and either blend or segment them for reading or writing (for example c-a-t). www.phonicsplay.co.uk is a useful website with a variety of free phonic games if your child would like to do more.

Reading is a key factor in our literacy and is then applied into our writing. As the quote at the beginning states the more you read the more you learn - it is really, really important that you read to your child and that they read or tell stories back.

Writing:

In school we are encouraging children to write for different purposes



labelling rockets and characters from the stories, writing postcards home from the moon, lists and story maps. We are encouraging children to begin to write in full sentences using capital letters and full stops and remembering to use 'finger spaces', the children will show you the actions if you ask. We will be planning lots of activities that involve independent writing and so a little practise at home would be useful. E.g you could sound out words for your child and they find the correct letters from an alphabet strip to write down. Also practising the tricky words with your child is a great help to their reading and writing. If your child still can not write their name then this is the main focus for now - practise makes perfect.

Mathematics - In this term we will be consolidating our work in number from last term. We continue to look at numbers within 10, recognising, ordering, comparing, talking about their composition and writing the numerals. We will find out about properties of 2D shapes focussing on squares and rectangles. We will also start to look at measurement focussing on mass and capacity. Number lines will be used to encourage the children to count on and back. There will be more work on pattern and shape and the children will create their own through various media. We will also be teaching everyday language in order to describe capacity, size and position. You could help your child at home by practising ordering numbers with them. Counting and fun dice games will also aid their mathematical development.

Understanding the world - Toy story theme and activities are great for our exploration of the outside world. We will consider the seasons and how we spot changes in the outdoor environment; we will make a weather station and encourage the children to explore changes in the weather. There will be lots of exciting activities such as thinking about space, making volcanoes, a dinosaur dig and much, much more. We will look towards the end of this half at the celebration of Chinese New Year.

Expressive art and design - We have some very creative children this year and we will continue to encourage their skills and imagination through the use of different media.

Reading:

This term we will really be getting to grips with phonics; reading and then applying for writing. In phonics the children are learning digraphs, which is combining 2 letters together to make one sound such as ng in long, ai in snail

and ow in cow. You can follow the order of the diagraphs by typing letters and sounds into Google and clicking on phase 3. Also, some children are learning trigraphs, three letters that make one sound for example igh as in sight, fight.

It is so important that you encourage your children to read at home - little and often is best. Please continue to read the home reading books with your child.

Your child will receive a phonic book which supports their phonic learning in school. They will also have a colour banded book (red or pink level) which we would like you to support them reading as there will be words in here which are not phonetically decodable. PLEASE make sure your child brings their books and reading record into school every day. Additional to this you could read stories that are from the library, or that have been given as a present. Encourage your child to talk about the story and ask them to explain what is happening to develop their comprehension and fluency.

How you can help at Home

- Reading-try to read every night at home.
- Writing- encourage your child to enjoy writing. Choose a picture about something they like and then encourage them to write a sentence or two about that picture.
- Maths- number recognition to 20, think about 1 more or 1 less. Count when walking up stairs, how many buttons on a cardigan?
- A gentle reminder, it's really important that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather and that all clothing/wellies are clearly named.

Keep the learning practical and fun and then children will want to learn more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Hothersall and Mrs Mesghali

The EYFS team

