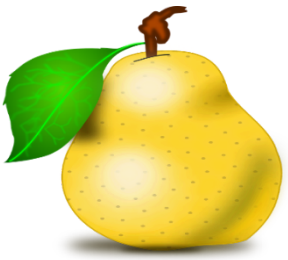


Swansfield Park Primary School



Pear Class News: Spring One

Animal Adaption and Winter Wonders

Firstly, a very happy new year to all Pear Class families! We hope that you are well rested and looking forward to another busy term. Please do remember to check out our blog on Fridays to catch up on all of our weekly learning!

Every day please remember: Water bottles, warm coats, hats and mittens (all named!). If you have not already done so, please ensure a bag containing spare clothes is returned to school – we are outside in most weather and we are often attracted to mud and water – having a change of clothes is a must!

Could we also politely remind you that our school day starts at 8.35 This term we would like to get on with our busy day much faster. The door will be closed by 8.40, any arrivals after this time will have to be via the entrance at the office. Thank you for your understanding.

Read Write Inc

Assessments at the end of the Autumn Term showed fabulous progress and this is testament to our hard working children and the super support you have given from home.

Read Write Inc will continue daily throughout the term as we move on to the next phase in our reading journey – your child's teacher and the coverage in these sessions may change, but we will let you know via a letter sent home at the end of the week.

Please consult our tab on the website: ***Supporting your child at home*** for information on RWI sounds, red and green words, as well as information on how to use the Ditties.

Key Vocabulary

Our children will continue to learn new vocabulary daily across all subjects. We will share some of this vocabulary weekly via our class blog so please help us to consolidate the understanding and use of these words at home to ensure our children 'learn more, remember more'.

Mathematics

In our mathematical work, we will be continuing to develop our understanding of the composition of numbers 1-5, developing our confidence of these number bonds through partitioning and sharing these numbers using the part, part, whole method. We will develop our understanding of one more than, one less than using place value as our guide as we jump forwards and backwards on the number line.

We will then move on to numbers 6-9. As we begin to consider the sub groups within these numbers, we will continue to utilise our subitising skills to add numbers together to create the whole amount -the first steps on the ladder towards creating addition number stories. We will be considering the patterns within number as we group arrangements; sharing irregular amounts of items, in-turn developing our understanding of odd and even numbers.

Alongside our number work we will be developing our shape, space and measure skills by exploring capacity, mass, height, length and time and recording our findings using our newly acquired mathematical vocabulary.

All of our maths work will continue to be delivered as practically as possible, but there will start to be more of an emphasis on the children recording their findings; our classroom bird watching tally chart, our daily weather chart and our morning tens frame registration will allow plenty of opportunities for the children to practise and master these skills.

The World

We will be taking our inspiration and wonders from the season of Winter as we explore our environment and as we investigate the changing state of materials due to colder temperatures. We will explore how animals in the UK adapt to the colder weather we are now experiencing, learning about hibernating animals and the migration of birds to warmer climates and considering how we can help these animals. We will then zip up the globe to the Northern hemisphere learning some facts about Polar Bears and how they insulate to keep warm in this icy environment, as well as travelling down to the Northern hemisphere to learn how penguins use camouflage to hide from predators and stay warm on land and in the water.

With a bit of luck, we'll get just enough snow and Winter weather to investigate and explore it's wonders without it causing too much disruption! As part of this, we'll keep a daily weather chart and take the temperature each day. The children will enjoy icy explorations as they discover the best materials for keeping warm.

We are going to do a little bit of historical work about winters gone by and we hope that you will be able to help with this by sharing pictures of yourselves enjoying winter weather in the past or pictures of the children themselves in the snow that we can add to our class timeline. We'll be in touch soon with further details about this!

Our RE learning this term will focus on 'Why is the word 'God' special to Christians?' We will consider through an enquiry based teaching and learning style some questions such as 'which people believe in god?' 'what is amazing about the world?' and 'what do Christians and other people think about the world and how we should treat it?' We will talk about things we find interesting, puzzling or wonderful and also about our own experiences and feelings about the world. We will consider the importance of caring for and looking after our environment and how Christians believe that God has put people in charge of taking care of our world.

Ourselves

In our Jigsaw sessions we will be thinking about our dreams and goals. We will realise that if we all persevere, we can tackle challenges. There will be lots of opportunities to reflect on times when we didn't give up until I achieved our goals. We will enjoy and join in with circle times, talking about setting goals and thinking about how we can work towards them. We are such kind friends in Pear class and will explore the importance of using kind words to support and encourage our friends. By the end of the half term we will be able to say how we feel when we achieve a goal and know what it means to feel proud.

Creative and Imaginative Work

This term in Charanga we will learn to sing more nursery rhymes and action songs: Wind the bobbin up, Rock-a-bye baby, Five little monkeys jumping on the bed, twinkle twinkle, If you're happy and you know it and head, shoulders, knees and toes. We will be exploring music based on family, friends, people and music from around the world. We will really enjoy listening and responding to different styles of music, learning to sing or sing along with nursery rhymes and action songs, improvising leading to playing classroom instruments and sharing and performing the learning that has taken place.

We will be thinking a lot about colour this half term and exploring the cold colour palette of Winter, learning how to lighten shades of these colours by adding white and using them to create a variety of adult led art as well as encouraging the children to experiment and explore as they create their own.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to build and construct with a creative purpose, using a range of junk materials and construction kits. We'll be encouraging the children to think independently about how they are going to join and assemble as they work, utilising the skills of adaption as they plan, do and review throughout the process.

As always, there will also be lots of opportunity for small world and role play relating to Winter themed stories that we'll share together.

The Physical Stuff

We will try to get out onto the field (with our wellies!) at least once a week to look for winter changes and treasures, investigate ice and create hibernation stations for the animals in our environment.

PE will now take place on Mondays with Mrs Horne-Smith and on Tuesdays with the NUF team- please remember to send your children in their PE kits on these days (white t-shirt, black trousers, purple hoodie and black/white trainers).

We will continue to develop our fine motor skills through lots of writing, cutting, weaving, sculpting, colouring and manipulating. You can support us in this by encouraging your child to hold pencils and scissors correctly and by providing opportunities for these experiences at home. Many of our children have mastered the art of fastening their own zip and we'll continue to support the children to do this throughout the half term. At lunchtime, as always, we'll look for children who are in the 'knife and fork gang' and celebrate their skills. Please continue to support your child in acquiring this essential life skill at home!

Reading

Thank you to everyone who has embraced home readers. The children read with us each week and we are really beginning to notice those who are reading regularly at home – your hard work is paying off! The children usually read with us on Thursdays and Fridays so please ensure their book and Reading Record are in school by Tuesday. It is extremely important that all books are returned to us each week so that we can redistribute them to the next child.

360 Journals

We love to see the contributions that you make. It's great to see school learning extended into the home and also to find out about the things that your children are currently interested in and enjoying out of school. It's also great to see their achievements – riding their bikes, writing on their own, getting a swimming award etc. We will continue to add to journals in school but as discussed last term we work from books so observations will mainly be of significant learning and memorable achievements. If you are unable to access your child's journal, get in touch.

Please remember we are always here if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact either of us via email or we can arrange a phone conversation if you would prefer.

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