



Pear Class News

Spring 2

Welcome back to Spring 2 after the half term holiday! Firstly, I hope you all had a wonderful and well deserved break. We have already begun our main topic of 'All about me and Healthy Living' where the children have been creative and made skeletons out of paper straws and twigs and leaves on the school field, but we also aim to explore this further and more in depth by learning about our senses. In addition to this we will be focusing on 'Spring' as a smaller topic. As always, we have lots of learning to do during this half term, even though it's another short one!

Read, Write, Inc

RWI sessions will continue for all children in Pear Class, three times a week. The children have all made excellent progress and are continuing to focus on writing short sentences independently! We are all at different stages of this, as some children are learning how to blend letter sounds together and others are well on the way to writing independently sentences! This is fantastic news as the children have started their reading and writing journeys. It is so important that we get this right so please do continue to reinforce reading, learning key words and lots of writing opportunities for your child at home.

Mathematics

Count reliably with numbers to 20 and place numbers in order, say the number that is 1 more or less than the given number, solve problems that involve doubling, halving and sharing, use everyday language to talk about, compare and solve problems about size, weight and capacity.

This half term, we shall continue ensuring that everyone in Pear class has a solid understanding of numbers to 20. We're great at counting forwards to 20 and beyond but we are still finding that counting backwards is trickier. We need to make sure that we can all count reliably with numbers to 20 and that we can place them in order. We'll also be looking at sharing and halving, rapidly recalling one more and one less from a given number and continuing to learn how to complete addition and subtraction sums in the form of stories! We will also be exploring data collection and using this information to record in graphs and tables. The children will also be sequencing the day and learning new mathematical vocabulary (past, present and future). They will have opportunities to independently create repeating patterns using fruits and pictures of body parts! Lastly they will also be using the positional language taught in the form of an Easter Egg Number Hunt!

The World

We have already begun to look into our bodies and more recently our skeleton. The children have been learning new vocabulary and can now point to where your skull is, rib cage and its purpose, patella and pelvis to name a few! We've also started exploring our senses, the children have been on a 'hearing hunt' around school and could identify lots of sounds using their ears. Next week we will begin to look at and learn about touch and feel. We will then work our way through all 5 senses before exploring fruit and using all our senses learnt to help us to identify new fruits! These activities all run alongside each other and can be used in both topics – all about me and healthy living. Towards the end of this half term fingers crossed that we start to see signs of Spring when we can make fantastic daffodil and lamb pictures!

Creative Work

There will be opportunities for lots of painting and collaging as we keep to our focal theme during our creative work this half term. The children have already made skeletons we will be moving on to paint observational drawings of fruit. We will use warmer colours, to create spring scene pictures and use selective spring images and materials to make collages.

I hope to see lots of drawings of fruits and all the baby animals during this half term, with the help of some photographs as the stimuli. Of course, there will be plenty of creative materials out every day as part of our continuous provision and children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas.

The Physical Stuff

Through exploring the school field, looking for signs of spring, creating skeletons out of twigs and sticks and our weekly P.E sessions, we will build upon our vital gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with sequins and small cut papers, threading activities, model making and a daily session of the children's favourite 'dough disco' will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too.

Please remember that we go outside in all weathers and we have the appropriate suits for the children to wear, although a spare set of clothes is always appreciated (in case they do get wet or muddy). If you do have any spare clothes at home that you don't want any more please feel free to bring them in, as we always like to have a bank of spare clothes for those children who don't have any spare clothes to get changed into!

As the weather is still cold now, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us if **all clothing and shoes are named** in order to ensure that they go home with the correct child at the end of the day!

During this half term, in everything we do, we will be teaching the essential personal, social and emotional skills needed to keep our classroom a happy and thriving place to spend our days.

Reading

Almost every child in Pear class has now begun their reading journey and are now on stories with simple sentences. In addition to the reading book, the children are making great progress with learning the high frequency words. Thank you, like always, with your continuous support at home! I do appreciate that sometimes you are busy at home but it really is making such a difference to your child's learning!

Also please make sure your child's reading book, record book and word book are in their book bags every day, so that myself, Mrs Crowe or Kerry Whitlow can hear the children read or practise words whenever we have a minute to spare. It is equally important to write a brief comment into your child's reading record book, so we can keep note of how your child is getting on at home.

I look forward to seeing most of you for parent consultations next week Wednesday of 28th Feb and Thursday of 1st March!

Thursday 8th of March at 4.30 – A meeting about how to use your child's new online learning journal with Sue Wilde. This meeting will give you opportunities to learn how to use your child's learning journal effectively and will be your chance to ask any questions around this. We are very excited about the new journals and can't wait to share this with you! Hope to see you all then. I have put up a sign up sheet on the notice board – please could you write your child's name in the box to give us an idea who will be attending on this date.

Remember the door is always open if you have any questions or worries, catch me in the morning, end of the day or send me an email:

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Beth Whitlow - Pear Class Teacher