



Pear Class News

Autumn 2

Wow! Where did that first half term go? I welcome you back to yet another busy, enjoyable half term. I am still extremely proud of how well all the children are doing, and how they have come together as a class, working well with each other, being considerate of each other, and taking the time to support each other. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, and we also have to somehow squeeze in some Christmas festivities too!

Read, Write, Inc

We have continued to make great progress with learning the Set 1 Read, Write Inc sounds. As you will have found out this is the beginning of the exciting journey of learning and using letter sounds that unlock the door to reading and writing. I can't thank you enough for supporting your child at home, just by asking about the letter sounds we have learnt and by practising them regularly at home makes such a difference. You will continue to receive information each week about the letter sounds we have learnt.

Mathematics

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Pear class has a solid understanding of numbers to 20. As well as counting forwards and backwards, ordering, adding, reading and writing digits, we'll be comparing numbers by using clear mathematical language such as more, less, fewer, most and least. In addition to this, we'll be learning 2d and 3d shape names, investigating the properties of these shapes and looking for them in the environment that surrounds us at school. We have already been applying our shape knowledge this week as we made our rockets and fireworks! Towards the end of the term our Christmas topic will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size (parcels and letters in our Christmas themed post office).

The World

We have already begun our first mini topic, 'bonfire night,' by creating fantastic firework pictures, displayed on the classroom wall. We created a poster on how to keep safe on bonfire night and at the end of last half term, 2 Police Officers came and spoke to the children and gave important information on how to keep safe during a firework display. This week we have also found out the best materials to make rockets by using 2d and 3d shapes.

Within this half term we will begin to understand the concept of day and night (light and dark.) We have already created a dark cave in the classroom, where the children can start to investigate shadows by using torches and twinkle lights.

In addition to this we will be learning about hibernating animals, with a particular focus on owls. Towards the end of this half term we will be celebrating Christmas. Making Christmas cards, retelling Christmas stories and using ICT programmes to create Christmas themed pictures are just some of the exciting things we have planned!

Creative Work

Singing is a daily occurrence in Pear class and we'll be learning lots of new topic themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore Christmas and we'll be making some very careful and detailed pictures of Owls. 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 gardening, dance 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.

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.

Home Learning Books

Thank you very much to everyone that shared with us some of the wonderful things you have been getting up to over the half term holiday. Home learning books will be sent home on a Friday and need to be returned to school on a Thursday. It gives a brief overview of the things that we have done during the week that you might like to follow up at the weekend. It would be great if you and your child could add pictures, little bits of writing (it's fine for an adult to scribe) and occasional photographs relating to the activities you complete. These books will also be the stimulus for discussion work between children as they show each other the things that they have been doing. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy! I will also send home details of the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation.

In addition to learning letter sounds and home learning activities, during this half term we will be introducing reading books. More information about this will follow.

Pear Class Family Lunch

On Wednesday 6th of December Pear Class parents/ grandparents are invited in for family lunch. Places need to be booked in advance (on the Monday) so that the kitchens know how much extra they need to cook. It is a great opportunity to come and share a roast dinner (and delicious school pudding!) with your child. We ask that you come to the main school reception at 11.45 and then we will bring the children out to collect you. Please let the office staff know if you have any particular dietary requirements.

Key Dates:

Thursday: Home Learning Books back to school.

Friday: P.E

Every day: Water Bottles and Book Bags to be in school.

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

