



Pear Class News

Spring 1

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term! Firstly, I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and well deserved break. Next week in Pear Class we will begin our new topic 'Winter.' We will be exploring everything cold and wintry, if the snow does fall, we will take this opportunity to have some fun outside, but we don't want too much, as we have lots of learning to do during this term!

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 recognise, hearing and forming those initial letter sounds. They will also begin to put these together to read and write short words. Most children in Pear Class have learnt all the set 1 sounds now and have started blending these sounds together to make words. It is truly wonderful to watch the children's faces as they realise they can read and write! It is so important that we get this right so please do continue to reinforce all of the sounds taught, at home.

Mathematics

This half term, we shall ensure that everyone in Pear class has a solid understanding of numbers to 20. We're great at counting forwards to 20 and beyond but as counting backwards is trickier, we'll spend lots of time securing this skill. We're going to be spending a lot of our time in maths thinking about addition and subtraction up to half term. This will be practically based for a lot of the time and I'll be encouraging the children to explore the different ways to make a given total (we call this number bonds), to create their own calculations and to record these. This creates a far deeper understanding of the concepts than simply answering 'sums.' In addition to this, we will be learning to count in 2's, this will be made easier when we pair socks and winter mittens together, again this concept will be taught practically before we move on to any else. We will also be exploring coins, we will learn to recognise coins up to £1 and use them as part of our general day to day counting and adding activities. The children will really enjoy using money and coins in our Chinese Restaurant, this links to our topic this half term which is to explore 'Chinese New Year.' The children will also be completing tally charts and graphs and sequencing the day and learning new mathematical vocabulary (past, present and future.)

The World

We have already begun to explore signs of Winter and we have learnt that the month 'January is in the season Winter.' From this we will investigate Winter in our own country, the children will be keeping track of the weather and the temperature outside, as a class they will record the temperature daily on a chart. We will also learn about common birds in Winter and how they survive during the season, the children will be giving them little hand during the cold months too, by making them some tasty food to eat.

We will also be exploring the concepts of freezing and melting. The children will take part in experiments to help them understand temperatures and what materials are the best insulators (best at keeping things warm) and dry (waterproof).

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 as we keep to our focal theme during our creative work. We will use cold colours, to create winter scene pictures and use selective wintry images and materials to make collages.

I hope to see lots of drawings of domestic birds and all this winter, 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 birds on bird hunts and spotting signs of winter 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.

Our inside P.E lessons will focus upon the children moving in different ways (twirling like leaves.)

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 very 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

All children now have reading books and are doing really well at generating ideas and discussing the stories in small groups. Some children have begun their reading journey and are now on stories with simple sentences. By the end of Spring 1 I hope for most children in Pear Class to be reading word books. In addition to the reading book, I will start some children with a 'book of high frequency words.' These words are key words which your child, simply, 'just needs to know!' Please practise these words at home with your child, by either doing them as flashcards, or placing them round the house and playing a game of 'find the word.' I will add new words to the book as the child learns the previous ones. I won't be adding any new words into your child's book until they have learnt the previous ones, so please keep practising them at home.

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.

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:

bethany.whitlow@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Beth Whitlow - Pear Class Teacher