

FARMER'S CLASS: SPRING 1



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the festive season with your families. It's been wonderful to see the children back in school, full of excitement and ready for the term ahead. This term, our theme is Our Wonderful World, and we've got so many exciting activities planned to inspire curiosity and a sense of awe about the world around us. This letter will give you an overview of what we'll be learning and some of the adventures we'll be embarking on together. I can't wait to see where this new term takes us!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, we'll continue to help the children recognise and express their feelings, encouraging pride in their achievements and introducing simple strategies to manage big emotions. Nursery children will begin to take on small tasks like choosing their snack or tidying up, while Reception children will grow in independence, managing their own needs with increasing confidence. We'll support all children in building friendships and working together, with Nursery children exploring parallel play and Reception children taking turns and recognising kindness in others. Through reflection and celebration, we'll nurture each child's sense of self and encourage them to take pride in their efforts and accomplishments.



Communication and Language

In Communication and Language, we'll be focusing on developing the children's listening, attention, and speaking skills. Nursery children will practise listening to stories, following simple two-part instructions, and using short sentences to describe their experiences. Reception children will learn how to listen carefully in different situations, maintain attention during activities, and predict story events or endings. We'll continue learning Makaton signs linked to our Our Wonderful World theme and explore ambitious vocabulary through our Drawing Club sessions. Through play, books, and conversations, we'll support the children in linking stories to their own experiences and using language creatively to express themselves.



Physical Development

In Physical Development, we will continue to focus on developing both fine and gross motor skills. Nursery children will work on balancing, walking along low beams, and using one-handed tools like paintbrushes and scissors with increasing control. Reception children will focus on throwing with accuracy, navigating space confidently, and manipulating smaller construction materials to create more complex structures. We're excited to introduce some new equipment this term, including stepping stones and balance beams, to encourage the children to build their own obstacle courses and practise their coordination. We also have new traffic cones and signs to use with the bikes, helping the children learn to navigate around obstacles and develop spatial awareness. To support fine motor development, we'll provide activities like cutting, threading, and creative construction to build hand strength and dexterity. We'll also encourage independence in managing self-care, such as putting on coats and hats and washing hands with increasing independence,



Literacy

This term, we will continue our daily Read, Write Inc. phonics sessions, with children bringing home materials to support their learning, including reading books when ready. Please ensure their sound book stays in their book bag for use at home and school, and don't forget to update their planner and Reading Challenge squares!

We'll also continue with Drawing Club to develop creativity and literacy skills. Nursery children will practise talking about stories, answering simple questions, and making marks to represent writing. Reception children will use phonics to read and spell CVC words, form recognisable letters, and compose simple sentences.

Through books, discussions, and play, we'll foster a love of reading, help children make predictions, and encourage them to use stories to inspire their play and learning.



Maths

In maths this term, we will continue building on foundational number skills through the Alive in 5 and Mass and Capacity units. The children will explore the concept of zero, deepen their understanding of numbers to ten through subitising and composition, and practise recognising one more and one less. We'll also introduce comparisons of mass and capacity, encouraging the children to use balance scales, measure with non-standard units, and investigate how objects can fill or balance containers in various contexts.

Our learning will be supported by engaging stories, practical activities, and problem-solving opportunities that make maths meaningful and fun for the children.



Understanding the World

In Understanding the World, we will explore the wonders of winter, observing seasonal changes like frost, snow, and shorter daylight hours. The children will learn how to dress appropriately for cold weather and reflect on the ways the natural world transforms during this season. We will also be learning about animals that live in cold environments, particularly focusing on our adopted polar bear Khinoe.

We'll also investigate our local community, learning about the roles of people who help us, such as doctors, firefighters, and police officers. Reception children will use simple maps to identify landmarks, draw information, and create their own maps, such as treasure maps, to build spatial awareness. Through technology like BeeBots and Google Maps, we'll develop early navigation skills and enhance our understanding of the world around us. Finally, the children will begin to discuss events from the past, like family traditions, using language such as "yesterday," "today," and "tomorrow" to talk about recent events and how things have changed over time.



Art and Design

In Expressive Art and Design, the children will continue exploring colour mixing and use their creations to depict the world around them. They'll experiment with joining materials in various ways, such as gluing or sewing, to bring their ideas to life. Through imaginative play, the children will act out everyday experiences and develop storylines using props. Music and dance will also play a key role, with opportunities for solo and group performances to inspire creativity and build confidence.



Religious Education

In RE, we will be exploring the Galilee to Jerusalem unit. The children will learn about the story of Epiphany, reflecting on the visit of the Kings to Jesus and the gifts they brought. We will also focus on how Jesus welcomes everyone and encourages us to share with others, helping the children to understand the importance of kindness and inclusion in their daily lives.



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday: 1pm: Forest School. Children can come to school in non-uniform and bring their waterproofs and wellies in a bag.
- Wednesday: 9-11:30am: Rock School (for those that are registered only)
1pm PE. Children can wear their PE kits into school.
2:30pm Celebration Assembly. Parents welcome.
- Friday: 1pm Dance. PE kit not required



Snack and Milk

All children in Farmers Class are provided with a healthy snack each day that is enjoyed in the morning with a story. If your child does not like the fruit that is offered they are welcome to bring a healthy alternative. Please note that crisps, chocolate sweets and biscuits will not be permitted. Children are also offered milk until they turn 5 for free. Once your child has turned 5, they can still have milk at snack but it must be paid for by the parents at a subsidised rate. Please contact the school office for more information about how you can pay for your child's school milk should you wish to.

Please ensure that children have everything they need for a busy day, including suitable outdoor clothing for the weather. For Reception children, this includes their planner and reading books. Please also provide your children a change of clothes in case they get wet and muddy as we do not have enough spares for everyone. Thank you!

Thank you for your support as we look forward to an exciting term!

Best wishes,

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