

Curriculum News



Squirrel Class Autumn 2020



Welcome to Spooner Row Primary School. I have had a lovely two days visiting you all at home and want to thank you for making me and Mrs Pigg feel so welcome. The information you have given will help me to plan individualised curriculums, as well as care for and support your child in the best way possible.

The purpose of this newsletter is to outline the work your child will be doing this term and give you information specific to Squirrel Class. Please read it carefully and keep it safe so that you can refer back to.

Learning in Squirrel class is fun. The curriculum is play based and planned around seven areas of learning. There are three prime areas; communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and four specific areas; literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. Learning will take place both inside and outside.

Curriculum Outline

The main emphasis this term will be on settling the children in, establishing classroom routines and developing social skills. Although I have planned work loosely around the topics of Amazing Me and Nursery Rhymes, I will be led by the children's interests.

PSED/RE

Starting school is a big step in a child's life and we want to make it a positive experience, so this area of the curriculum will play a key role this term. Emphasis will be on settling in, making friends, getting to know the school and learning the classroom routines and rules.

During the second half term we will look at different festivals and the way in which they are celebrated.

Communication and Language

Emphasis will be on learning how to listen attentively and responding to what is heard, following instructions and speaking confidently in front of the class. Listening is a complex cognitive skill that needs to be taught. Much of this teaching will be done through carpet time activities and Show and Tell.

Physical Development

We are aiming for some form of physical activity every day. There will be two planned P.E. lessons each week. **This term our PE lessons will be on a Monday and Tuesday. Children will need to come dressed in their PE kits on these days and bring their uniform in a bag to change into incase it rains. PE lessons will start on Monday 21st September.** Emphasis will be on spatial awareness and moving in different ways with control and co-ordination. Children will also be involved in daily cutting, threading, stacking and pencil control activities designed to strengthen their fingers and develop their fine motor skills.

Mathematics

All children will have a daily maths session. Most of these will take place outdoors. Emphasis will be on counting and number recognition to ten and adding and subtracting within five. We will use songs and rhymes to say, order and use number names. Children will be encouraged to use their mathematical knowledge to solve simple problems. Throughout the term we will also focus on measurement and shape.

Understanding the World

Much of the work in this area will be led by the children's interests. The children will have access to a wide range of ICT equipment from computers and ipads to keyboards and telephones.

Literacy

All children will have a daily phonics session. Emphasis this term is on sound discrimination, letter/sound recognition and sounding and blending vc/cvc words. We will learn a number of 'tricky' words by sight, as well as reading and writing our names, labels and lists. The children will be read to everyday and encouraged to talk about what they have heard.

Expressive Arts and Design

In art we will be experimenting with colour and texture as well as learning to manipulate playdough for a purpose. As part of our topic we will be drawing people and creating self portraits. In music the children will be learning some new songs and making/exploring different musical instruments and the sounds they make.

Home-School Diary and Home-School Sharing Book

These are your link with school. If you want to tell us anything, need advice or need a question answering, write it in the purple book and we will do our very best to get back to you on the same day. Mrs Pigg checks through the purple books daily and passes on to me any that require attention.

The Home-School Sharing Book will come home every Friday. Each week I will write a summary of the work covered. Please talk to your child about what they have done and tell us what they have enjoyed. We also want to know what your child has been doing at the weekend and if they have achieved anything new. We will sit with each child during the week and talk to them about the activities they have done at home. This is valuable one to one time and shows your child that home and school are working together. At the end of the year, I will use the comments in these books to inform my assessments.

Reading

This is a key skill and one that cannot be rushed. Your child will not be given a reading book straight away. They will be given a sounds book in the next couple of weeks, in which I will put the sounds we have covered in class, a list of words that can be made from those sounds and some tricky words (written in red). Individual sound cards will be sent home for you to use to help your child read and spell the words in the book. Tricky word cards will be sent home and these need to be learnt by sight. All children will have their words checked once a week. If they can read the words they will be given new ones.

Your child will be given a reading book from the pink book band box once they know the majority of letter sounds, can sound and blend cvc words, read simple captions and read the first ten tricky words. Please look/read through the books **at least four times** throughout the week and sign the purple home/school diary **every time** you read with your child (please remember to write the date and title of the book). Children will receive a sticker for their chart for every four signatures in their book. Once their chart is full, they will be able to choose a prize from the box.

Please remember that there is a lot more to reading than simply decoding words. Talk to your child about the pictures, ask them questions about the characters, get them to predict what might happen next and read to them before bed. All of these things will help them to gain an understanding of how stories work and hopefully create a love of books.

As a precaution against the risk of Covid transmission, we will keep resources and books used at home separate from those used at school.

50ps

In order to provide toast and milkshake, as well as a wide range of enrichment activities, including cooking and food tasting, I am asking for a voluntary contribution of **50p a week**. This needs to be paid termly (£7.00). Please put the money (cash only) in an envelope with your child's name on and leave it in their book bag. These activities will not be able to go ahead without your support.

Stay and Play Sessions

Unfortunately, I am unable to hold Stay and Play sessions this term. It is my intention to run two Zoom sessions instead, to show you how phonics and maths are taught. I will send further details nearer the time.

Lunch

All children in Reception are entitled to a free school dinner. This term we are only able to offer a packed lunch. Please order via parentmail. If you are unsure how to do this, please contact Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Rickaby in the office and they will talk you through the process.

Milk and fruit

The school is signed up to the national fruit scheme. This entitles your child to a daily piece of fruit up to the age of seven. All 4yr olds are entitled to a third of a pint of milk a day. We purchase additional milk to ensure that no child misses out once they turn 5!

Show and Tell

This is a very valuable speaking and listening activity and one that I would like to encourage. Each child will be given a day on which they can bring in **one item** from home to talk about (see purple book). Please do not send in items on other days, as there will not be time to look at them. For the first term, whilst they are developing confidence in speaking in front of the class, they can bring in a toy to talk about. Interesting objects and models made at home are encouraged and will be rewarded with House Points. Please ensure that your child knows what they are going to say about the object. Show and Tell will start on Monday 21st September.

Where possible please avoid sending in soft toys and wipe down hard items.

'Inspiring a Generation'

As part of the 2012 Olympic legacy of 'inspiring a generation' I will be introducing 'Elmer the Exercising Elephant' to the children and encouraging them to get involved in physical activities with him throughout the week. At the weekend Elmer will be taking it in turns to come home with the children. He will bring a bag of equipment with him. Please could you get your child to involve him in **sporting or physical activities** and record them, with photos if possible, in his diary. He will come home on Friday and needs to be returned to school on Monday so that your child can share what they have done with him with the rest of the class. Please make sure that all of his clothes and equipment are put back in the bag.

Both Elmer and the equipment will go into quarantine until Friday to minimise the risk of Covid transmission.

Outdoor Clothes

It is a requirement of the Foundation Stage Curriculum that children have a balance of indoor and outdoor play. This means that we will be outside in all weather conditions. Waterproof coats and dungarees will be provided by the school. Children will need Wellington boots in school **at all times**. Please ensure that these are named. Once the cold weather sets in they will also need **gloves and a hat** every day. It would be helpful if children could have a change of clothes to keep in school (jogging bottoms, t-shirt, pants and socks). It is always nicer for children to be able to put on their own clothes if they get wet, dirty or have an accident.

Remember our class motto: **'A dirty child is a happy child.'**

PE Kit

Children need to come to school in their PE kit on a Monday and Wednesday, starting 21st September. Long hair must be tied back and all **jewellery removed**. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings, so these should not be worn on PE days (Monday and Tuesday). Earrings that cannot be removed will be taped and your child will be given a modified curriculum to ensure their safety and the safety of their peers.

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or a concern about any aspect of your child's learning and life at school. I can also be contacted via email: lnewbery6nrb@nsix.org.uk

Thank you

Mrs Newbery and Mrs Pigg