

The Early Years Curriculum Letter 2 Spring Term 2020

Early Years Teacher: Mrs Tansley

Early Years Learning Support Assistant: Mrs Chisnall

Our aim is to make your child's learning experience exciting and enjoyable through delivering a creative and stimulating curriculum based on the skills highlighted in the Early Years Framework. Each week the children will have opportunities to experience all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum: Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Mathematics, Expressive Arts and Design, Literacy and Understanding the World. This will be through a mixture of adult led and child-initiated activities. The children will have frequent opportunities to initiate their own learning during independent time. The adults will work to extend this learning through supporting play, using children's ideas to plan for future provision and enabling children to become independent learners with the ability to access resources and develop and explore their own ideas.

When possible or appropriate, learning will be linked to a theme or topic and the children's own interests. Our topics for the rest of this term will be: **Winter, Snow, Ice and Dark Nights and Food and Cooking.**

Communication and Literacy

The children will take part in an adult led phonics session daily, independent of our topic work.

We will be exploring winter and dark nights, through stories and sharing non-fiction books which give information. The children will extend their vocabulary through discussion and sharing books about signs of winter and relating it to their own experiences talking about their ideas, acting out events and understanding how books can be used to find out information and talking about facts in those books.

They will use their phonics to read words, labels, captions and simple sentences about Winter and to write sentences and captions using descriptive language and new vocabulary. We will write simple captions and instructions, inspired by our reading.

Next we will be exploring the theme of Food and Cooking. The children will share their thoughts, feelings and opinions about food, cooking, a healthy diet and food hygiene. They will understand the importance of lists, recipes and sequenced instructions. They will read and write a range of different recipes and cook tasty treats. They will write lists and short instructions. They will learn about the textual features of recipes, the need for accurate word choices, and the importance of correctly sequencing instructions.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will take part in small world activities and role play, working in and visiting a café, supermarket and kitchen. They will learn and perform songs and rhymes with actions. The children will develop their expressive and constructional skills in a range of activities, for example, creating ice pictures, starry night sky pictures, composing music for a bear and building a den.

Understanding of the World

The children will look at icicles or pictures of icicles and discuss how they are formed. They will experiment with freezing water in differently shaped containers and then explore 'freezing' frozen toys through melting in different places and by sprinkling salt. We will explore materials that reflect the light or glow in a dark tent using torches.

Mathematics

Adult led weekly activities will focus on

- **Exploring and playing with 3-D shapes**

The children will begin to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and mathematical terms to describe shapes. They will use familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models. They will explore the similarities and differences between them and sort them according to whether they roll, stack or slide.

- **Addition and Subtraction and Money**

The children will say the number that is one more than a given number. In practical activities and discussion, they will begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. They will use everyday language related to money to identify/describe coins and begin to understand that different coins have different values. They will exchange one coin for several of another and make small amounts.

- **Measuring weights**

The children will order items by weight or capacity. Use everyday language to talk about size, weight and capacity to solve problems.

Physical Development

The children will have an hour session every Tuesday with Mr S.

Reminders

All children require a water bottle in school. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office or you may supply your own.

Please ensure Book Bags are in school every day **with your child's home / school communication book, which must come into school and then go home every day.** It will be used to record reading books read and comments from home and school. Every child should read at home five days a week. It will also be used to explain the other home learning tasks set. The book can also be used to share messages between home and school. Alternatively, messages can be sent to h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk

Please check your child's bag and take out any letters or pictures every night.

Hair must be tied back neatly.

Please ensure full PE kit is in school at all times, including trainers or plimsolls and tracksuit/jogging bottoms/sweatshirt/fleece/hoody for outdoors. Please ensure you name all items of clothing (including footwear, hats, scarfs and gloves) clearly.

Outdoor play Now that the weather is cold and wet, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please provide your child with a suitable coat, hat and gloves for outdoor play and some wellingtons to be kept in school.

Home Learning

All Early Years children will have a library book to take home to share each week. This term it will be changed on a Monday. Reception will also have a reading book. Please comment on your child's reading at home in the home/school communication book.

Phonics (letters and sounds) activities weekly. (Fridays)

Occasionally other tasks will be sent home but they will have instructions with them.

If you ever have any worries, concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us using the Home School Communication Book (please remember to check this daily) or if you feel what you need to say or ask would be more appropriate in an email, you may email me on h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk Please be aware that emails will be checked/answered during working hours and not during the weekends.

Thank you for your continued support. Mrs Tansley and The Early Years Team.

