

This term's projects

Our project **Light and Dark** began with an exciting 'black and white day'. Aspects of our topic have focused upon the creative use of technology to enhance our learning, for example, by using an overhead projector and torches to explore shadows and light effects. We have already had lots of fun making dark dens. Our inspiring 'School in the Dark' event went brilliantly, if you were not able to make it, the evenings are still quite dark, so get out and explore with your torch wherever you live.

Later in the term we shall be working with Ruth from 'Sciencedipity' who will visit us and introduce the children to the wonderful world of science!

Mathematics

Children will be extending their knowledge of numbers and the number system by recognising and ordering numbers to 20.

This term we are continuing to explore addition and subtraction strategies. Using quantities and objects children will learn to add by counting on. They will also learn how to subtract by counting back. It is important that they develop mathematical skills through practical problem solving. Recognising and describing 2D and 3D shapes using the appropriate mathematical language, such as corners, sides and faces is a focus early in the term.

Literacy

The book 'Peace at Last' by *Jill Murphy* has been the inspiration for our learning in Literacy. We have been finding out about the differences between day and night focusing on the sounds we may hear after dark. This has led us into using music and dance too! In order to develop and expand their vocabulary children will be encouraged to learn and have an understanding of some key words from our text: *uncomfortable, peace, notice, snuffle, leaky and pretend*.

We will continue to develop our phonic knowledge through daily 'Letters and Sounds' sessions.



How you can help

At home:

Get them writing!

Encourage your child to write independently using their growing phonic skills. They could write shopping lists, cards, post-its, notes, messages, letters, little books and postcards – anything at all. It's all great practise.

Get them reading!

We ask you to read 3 times per week for 10 minutes at a time. Encourage your child to 'sound it out' and help them 'blend' the sounds together by repeating the sounds back to them. Practise really does make perfect!

Go to:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk or www.phonicsbloom.com where you will find a range of free interactive phonics games. Look for games in Phases 2 and 3.

Look out for:

News about World Book Day, which will be celebrated on Thursday 5th March.

PLAY
is the highest form of
research
Albert Einstein

Last term

Time flies when you're having fun! It seems a long time since the children first came to school and everything was strange and new. Now they are thriving and learning new things every day.

Highlights from the autumn term were:

- Starting school and meeting new friends..
- Receiving our first Guided Reading book and beginning to learn to read.
- Watching the progress of the new classroom, especially the crane, the mini-digger and the dumper truck.
- Our 'Festive Sing Along and Sparkle' afternoons and the hilarious Circus Berzercus.

Inspire

~

Discover

~

Succeed

Help your child learn to write



SCRIBBLING & DRAWING

Your child needs to practice making marks and shapes before being able to write letters. Provide lots of opportunities to scribble and draw so they can develop these skills.

PLAYDOUGH, PEGS & FINGER PUPPETS

Your child needs to be able to use their fingers independently to write. Activities that strengthen and encourage your child to use their fingers will develop the skills your child needs.



CLIMBING & SWINGING

Your child needs strong arm and body muscles to sit up and write. They also need good control of their arms. Outdoor activities that encourage them to use their whole body will develop these muscles.

THREADING, CLAPPING, BATTING & STREAMERS

Crossing the body's mid-line is an important skill needed for writing. Encourage your child to thread items along a string. Clapping games, batting a tennis ball or a balloon, and playing with long streamers, all help to encourage this skill.



TORCHES & BALL GAMES

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Your child needs to track with their eyes to write. Asking your child to follow a torchlight, just with their eyes, will develop their tracking skills. Ball games will also develop this skill.

PLAYING WITH AND IDENTIFYING LETTERS & WORDS

Your child needs to be interested in letters and words to write. Encourage your child to look for letters and words in their home and environment.

S K Y



WRITING LISTS & WRITING FOR A PURPOSE

Your child needs to understand that writing has a purpose. Ask your child to help you write a shopping list or write a note for a friend or neighbour.