



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to term 5 of this academic year. Our topics for this term are **Insects** (3 weeks) and **Food** (3 weeks). We will also be learning all about **Spain** linked to our Arts & Culture theme week later this term. Term 6 will be **Around the Globe**. We will continue to work towards the Early Learning Goals for the Foundation Stage.

Communication and Language and Literacy

In Phonics we will be revising Phase 3, focusing on being able to apply this knowledge in spelling and writing. The children will not be learning any new sounds until they begin Year 1. We will continue to focus on handwriting, ensuring correct pencil grip and letter formation. The children will continue work on writing sentences.

Through our topic work we will be looking at a range of non-fiction texts, learning how to use a contents page and index to find information. We will look at different genres of writing, such as lists, recounts and stories. The children will be making their own books about the lifecycle of a butterfly and writing a recipe for making jam sandwiches.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk is a good website for phonics games which are grouped according to the phonic phases.

Mathematics

Each week the children will be focusing on a different area of the mathematics curriculum. These areas include: Counting to 100, counting on from a given number, saying the 'next' number to any given number; Numbers to 20: counting up to 20 objects, estimating, recording numbers to mark the number in a set; Beginning to use the language of direction, moving in given directions in relation to a starting point; Adding by counting on, subtracting by counting back, beginning to know the number one more or one less; Understanding addition as counting on and as the combination of two sets/partitioning of a set; Adding 2 or 3 to a number up to 10, finding a total by counting on one when that object is hidden and capacity.

www.ictgames.co.uk is a good website for both English and Maths games.

Understanding the World

In our topic on insects children will learn to identify different insects, analysing similarities and differences. They will learn about the importance of camouflage and plan an investigation into what food attracts ants.

Through the topic on 'Food' children will be discussing and learning about their favourite foods and where they come from. They will taste and compare foods from around the world and taste different fruit and vegetables. They will learn about the importance of healthy eating. We will also be learning all about the different foods eaten in Spain for Arts & Culture Week, together with learning some facts about the country, their national costume, customs and traditions and a little bit of the Spanish language.

In the Around the Globe topic the children will be learning map skills and how to plan a trip for our own 'holiday'. To develop their ICT skills, the children will be using the Bee Bots (programmable toys) to plan and programme routes around the classroom.

Expressive Arts and Design

In our insects topic the children will be designing and making insect masks, making a variety of insects using different materials and learning songs and poems about insects. Furthermore, we will be visiting our school pond to ensure we can see the insects first hand.

During the Around the Globe topic the children will create role plays of holiday adventures and design their own seascape paintings. We will also look at the flags of different countries and design our own flags.

Physical Development

Over the forthcoming terms the focus is on games and athletic activities. The children will be learning to develop their balance, co-ordination and agility through a range of game based activities. We will also be practising our dance for our class assembly. Art and construction activities will develop children's ability to handle and manipulate objects and materials.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The focus of the themes in term 5 is 'Relationships'. Using circle time and other games we will be exploring the positive feelings of belonging and feeling cared for. They will explore how they can hurt people's feelings and how they might feel hurt or cared for. They will have opportunities to consider how other people's actions can be hurtful and develop some strategies to help them deal with this. The focus in term 6 is 'Changes'. The children will consider the ways they have changed since starting school and in particular how their social, emotional and behavioural skills have developed.

Finally

If you have any queries do not hesitate to discuss these with us.

If you have any expertise or interest in our topics and would like to share your enthusiasm with the class please speak to us!

Yours faithfully

Miss Iasi, Mrs West, Mrs Richardson and Mr Thrift