

Welcome to the Autumn Term. I hope you have had a lovely summer. We have a very varied and exciting term ahead and lots of new learning opportunities for your child to enjoy.

This term is geared towards settling your child into school, ensuring that they have high wellbeing and facilitating positive relationships between adults and peers through routine, following your child's interests throughout the provision and a high adult to child ratio.

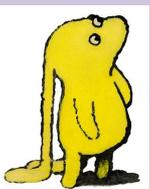
Mrs Littlewood
Class Teacher

Communication & Language, Listening, Understanding & Speaking

Literacy

Because Maidwell Primary School is a *Storytelling School*, the children will undertake their learning through a variety of different stories. This approach is underpinned by the fact that if children learn stories orally, it improves the quality of their writing.

This is because storytelling develops the children's self-confidence as story tellers; it provides a bank of possibilities to draw upon and encourages the flow of story language and patterns they can use when re-telling and later when writing. Research shows that children who are read to are more likely to succeed in school.



As a class, the children will begin by hearing the story of *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. The children will be told this orally to enable them to visualise the characters and setting themselves. We will then make Beegu characters using collage and paint to link with the 'Expressive Art and Design' expectations of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The children will also listen to and learn other stories throughout the term, so watch out for *The Little Red Hen* which children learn through creating a pictorial story map and using actions to internalise the sequence of events.

As parents, you will be given the opportunity to come and watch your child engage in a 'Talk for Writing' lesson, where we will show you a condensed lesson sequence from start to finish so that you can 'see how it works' for yourselves.

Homework

Your child will come home with a 'Busy Bee' book each Friday. You are welcome to annotate what your child has said whilst completing the homework or any comments that they have made. This needs to be handed in the following Thursday of each week.

Phonics/Reading/Handwriting

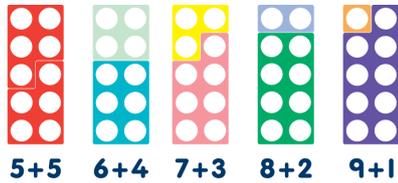
In the coming weeks we will begin our teaching of phonics, reading and letter formation. In order to learn more about the way in which we teach and to enable you to support your child fully at home, please attend the curriculum meeting on Thursday 15th September at 6pm.

At Maidwell Primary School, we teach handwriting by means of the Nelson Handwriting Scheme. To ensure that your child experiences consistency with home and school learning please take note of the particular letter formation that this scheme advocates. This will help us to avoid your child spending time 'unlearning' alternative letter formations when they eventually begin to join their letters.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff/f Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk/k Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Maths

Number



When we teach your child about number we use, amongst other resources, Numicon shapes. These shapes are designed to use the key strengths of young children to help them understand maths. These strengths include:

- Their ability to learn by doing
- Their ability to learn by seeing
- Their strong sense of pattern

The Numicon shapes will be placed in various areas of the learning environment to allow children to notice and create patterns and match corresponding amounts of objects the Numicon shapes. This ensures that the children's learning is reinforced throughout their areas of interest.

This term children will:

- Learn to recite number names and learn to count to 20 and beyond
- Learn the cardinal values of numbers 1-10
- Explore the Numicon shapes
- Match the Numicon shapes by colour and shape
- Use the language of size

The children will have a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities throughout the school week. We are sensitive to the individual interests of the children which are used to support their learning across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Understanding the world

People and communities

The Reception children have the unique opportunity to experience the Key Stage 1 curriculum lessons linked to the play based Early Years curriculum. This term the Key Stage 1 children will be learning about St Francis in RE and discussing those who inspire them. Reception children will be given the opportunity to explore the traits of their own heroes and discuss the qualities of a hero.

Technology

Children have computers available to them to use freely throughout the day with educational programmes relating to maths, reading, expressive arts and design and writing. Within the afternoon sessions children will be given 1:1 time to learn how to use these programmes effectively.

The World

In History this term, the year 1 and 2 children are learning about The Great Fire of London. Again, Reception children will be engaging in activities based around this theme with a more 'hands on' set of activities to support their learning. Our Christmas performance this year will be *The Lion King* so the children will be making African animal masks and props around an African wildlife theme.



Music

Children will be learning the songs from The Lion King ready to perform to you at Christmas. Some of these are in Zulu so are being taught through phonetically segmenting the words and are being taught to the children with actions.

Physical development

Our PE sessions will be swimming with Mrs Ogden at Maidwell Hall on a Monday afternoon and a PE lesson every Thursday afternoon with Mr Smith.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be focussing on the school ethos of the FIVE R'S OF LEARNING. The children will focus on being:

- Ready for learning
- Resilient in their learning
- Resourceful in their learning
- Reflective in their learning
- Responsible for their learning

These topics will be covered before assembly each day.

Please note that PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday and remain until Friday in case of an alteration to the timetable or an extra PE lesson.

It will, as you can see be a busy and fun term.

If you have any questions about your child at school or the expectations in any area, please don't hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Garley.

Could I remind you that children are not to bring toys into school. This helps to avoid disappointing losses/breakages, playground arguments and valuable classroom time being used on the relocation of beloved items.

