

Dear Parents

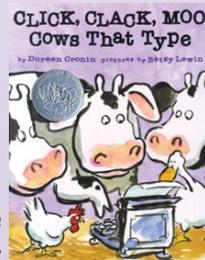
Welcome to the new term. The sun is out now (finally!) and this gives us more opportunity to take our learning outdoors and enjoy a wide range of outdoor learning resources.

Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley
Class Teachers

Communication & Language

Literacy

This term we are focusing on the story of *Click, Clack Moo Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin. It tells the story of Farmer Brown's cows, who find an old typewriter in their barn and proceed to write letters to Farmer Brown, listing various demands. The cows realise that they have a lot of bargaining power and begin to leverage it, eventually encouraging the 'neutral parties' – the ducks - to do the same! This will be a fantastic opportunity to teach the children letter writing and story writing and will be taught by means of oral activities and drama. The children will be told the story orally and have the opportunity follow our usual process of stepping, mapping and speaking an innovated version themselves.



This story links well to the Personal, Social and Emotional Development strand of the EYFS curriculum. We will therefore be using the story to reinforce the benefits of working as a team and supporting one another.

Numeracy

This term children will continue to follow the Numicon programme to help them with their understanding of number. We will be focusing on

developing our understanding of halving and sharing. This will involve developing understanding that a 'whole' can be made up of different-sized parts for parts that are the same size. We will begin to identify and create two equal parts and learn that each part is called a 'half'. We will then move on to investigate finding half of a group of objects and extend our work to focus on adding and subtracting parts of wholes.

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.

Shape, Space and Measurement

This term children will be provided with opportunities to:

Estimate, measure, weigh, compare and order objects and talk about properties, pattern, position and time.

These will be taught by:

- Using geared clocks to tell the time to the hour
- Measuring time in simple ways such as seeing how many jumps they can do while a 30 second sand timer is running
- Follow instructions through an obstacle course outside, further embedding language around position and direction
- Shape barrier games where children learn to describe the particular properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- Pattern creating, starting with colour then advancing to pattern finding in groups of numbers

The children will continue to experience daily planned, activities which will enable them to access the three prime and four specific areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

This term, children will be contributing to the weekly planning process and their interests will continue to be built upon to support their understanding across all areas of the curriculum.

Understanding the world

People and communities

This term, the RE topic is *Stories in Christianity*. Children will have the opportunity to reflect upon these stories and share their own favourite books with their friends. They will also have chance to act the stories out, to deepen their understandings of the messages behind them.

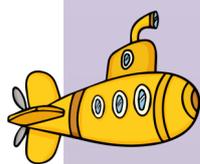
Technology

Children will have their usual permanent access to educational games on the class computers and iPads. They will also be joining the Year 1 and 2 children for their unit on research, which will involve finding out about their favourite author, then making their own version of one of their stories using an app called Puppet Pals on the iPads.

Music

The National Curriculum objectives for music this term are for children to:

- Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- Play tuned and un-tuned instruments musically
- Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music



This music unit will be enjoyed by learning a new song by The Beatles each week. The children will incorporate the Talk for Writing process into this music unit by mapping the lyrics to the song *Yellow Submarine* and innovating their own versions in small groups.

Children will also be taking it turns to record their 'counting in 2s, 5s and 10s' CDs with a rhythmic backing track, throughout the course of the term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

As you know, positive relationships between children are where a multitude of social skills are learnt. This term we will be focussing on encouraging kindness. The children will make a new *Kindness Tree* early on in the term and each time anyone performs a kind action, they will be awarded a kindness leaf to put on to the tree. We look forward to our tree being covered in leaves by the end of the term!



Our role-play area will, as usual, be filled with costumes and props and will reflect both this term's story and the children's individual interests. This really important area of our setting promotes social skills such as negotiation, listening, self-esteem and importantly, through this form of 'play', children learn new and more complex vocabulary.

Physical development

Children will continue to have Mr Gordon each week for PE and their usual swimming lessons with Mrs Ogden.

The focus for this this term's unit of work is **Applying Physical Skills**, with a physical focus on co-ordination with equipment for the first 3 lessons and on agility (reaction/response) for the remaining 3 lessons. The learning goals for this unit are:

- I can perform and repeat longer sequences with clear shapes and controlled movement. I can select and apply a range of skills with good control and consistency (Level 3)
- I can perform a range of skills with some control and consistency. I can perform a sequence of movements with some changes in level, direction or speed
- I can perform a single skill or movement with some control. I can perform a small range of skills and link two movements together

The gross motor opportunities will be as follows:

- Class parachute
- Bikes, cars and scooters
- Large rollers on large paper

Fine motor opportunities:

- Threading
- Writing and drawing
- Weaving
- Spraying with spray bottles
- Tweezers and sorting



Just a little reminder ...

The stars which come home in your child's book bag are for you to write their at-home achievements on. These are celebrated with their friends in class. They can include anything from becoming more independent, being kind and helpful or even a new experience they may have had.

Below are links to some recommended website links that have games to support your child's maths and phonics skills at home:

For counting objects up to 5 or 10:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting>

For blending sounds and deciphering between 'alien' and real words:

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>

For reading practice:

http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story_files/hanging_monkeys_US.swf

Please continue to hear your child read each night and help them with their key words. It will really help them with their writing when they get to Year 1, if they have many of these words memorised.

PSHE

For the last term of the school year we will continue with the very important topic of the development of *Positive Mindset*. The children have, across the course of the year, spent time thinking of ways to become 'Superlearners' and we will continue this very important work across the course of the Summer Term.

The message is simple: Learning is life-long; it's not always easy; it requires effort; effort = reward.

This important work should be continued at home. Please look on our website and find the information toolkit co-constructed last term with the whole school entitled '*How to Become A Superlearner*'.



Please also make sure that your child has sun cream on before coming to school each day and that they bring a hat and water bottle with them.



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

