

Welcome to class Plym.

PE kits

Children will require PE kits on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We will be having an outdoor learning session on a Thursday so can children please have a pair of wellies/trainers on their pegs. We have plenty of waterproof trousers and coats so these will not be required.

Reading

Children will be learning from our systematic synthetic phonics programme where they learn the letter sounds and begin to segment and blend words - we will be in contact soon to invite you to an information session on phonics and how you can support your child with their reading.

Children will be bringing home reading books and the school expectation is that children read with an adult 5 times a week and an adult to record the date and any comments in their reading journal. You can ask your child questions about the pictures, how their own experiences compare or match any in the book and just have a lovely little discussion about the book and any sounds they can spot.

Alongside this, children will also be bringing home a library book of their choice. This isn't for children to read to you, but rather for you to share together. Sitting down and enjoying a book together helps promote a positive reading attitude right from the beginning.

Learning this Autumn term

Learning in the early years is very hands on and practical so sometimes children will come home a bit messy - sorry!

Below is an overview of what we will be covering in the Autumn term. Our key themes this term are: Families and The Body with an overarching question of 'What makes me special?'

Literacy

We will be reading *The Colour Monster*, *Owl Babies* and *the Rainbow Fish* for Autumn 1 and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *The Gruffalo* in Autumn 2 for our English studies. We will be learning to re-tell the stories and join in with repeated parts. We will begin to learn phase 2 phonics sounds and use these to help us with reading simple words. We will also look at how print is read from left to right and top to bottom. Children will also have lots of mark making opportunities with a range of media to help them to build their confidence and letter formation skills.

Mathematics

The first few weeks of maths will be learning the routines and timings of a school day and then talking about where things belong, using language of 'on top' and 'inside' etc. We have a daily calendar to help us to learn and order the days of the week and months of the year as well as what the date of the month is. We will also be doing lots of sorting as well as looking at what the numbers 1,2,3,4 and 5 look like and how we can show this in different ways. We will be looking at size, mass and capacity too saying when things are smaller, bigger, longer, shorter etc.

Communication and Language

Children will have an abundance of opportunities throughout the day to talk about what they are doing or plan to do for their own choosing time and plenty of opportunities to make comments in small groups and whole class discussions, responding to what they hear. We will also be learning lots of lovely songs and rhymes as well as looking at all of the lovely language and meanings in our English texts and stories throughout the day.

Understanding the world

We will be talking a lot about our families and who is in them and how not all of our families are the same but that this is okay. We will talk about how we used to be babies but now we have grown. Every day we have a weatherboard and weather song so we can look closely at the weather and then begin to notice when it has changed. We will be looking at habitats for the characters in our stories and discussing how they are similar and different. We will be learning about other religions and how Christianity can differ to parts of Islam and Hinduism for example. Children will also have outdoor learning every week so they will get to explore lots of natural resources and activities.

Personal, social, emotional development

We will be supporting children to develop their listening and attention skills and building up the time they are comfortably able to sit on the carpet for example and maintain focus to listen to stories and discussions. We have a self-registration feelings board where children can come in and put their face on how they are feelings; we will look at the Colour Monster book as well as a range of others to support us in discussing a variety of feelings and new vocabulary to go alongside this. We will support the children to know and learn the school and class rules and strategies to help them to manage themselves when someone has taken their toy for example.

Physical Development

Children will have PE twice a week as well as a Plymouth Argyle coach in every other week. Children will also have outdoor provision in their classroom daily where there is a range of activities set up that rotates such as bikes, balancing blocks and lots of planks to build bridges. This term in our PE we will be focusing on co-ordination, balance and

spatial awareness and then moving on to jumping, balancing and rolls. For fine motor development, children will begin to develop their use of cutlery at lunch times, doing lots of threading and tweezer activities in class and taking part in daily phonics lessons where they get to learn a proper pencil grip to enable them to write effectively.

Expressive art and design

The classroom has a creative area where there is paint available daily and another station that will change. Children may have play doh or puppet making to go alongside their English text for example. Towards Christmas, children will be creating Christmas decorations and cards to take home. Children will be using scissors, glue, tape and a range of tools. Children will also have lots of opportunities to sing lots of songs and create their own dances.

I will be on the gate at the start and at the end of the school day, so please do not hesitate to come and speak to me if you have any questions.

Miss Gillespie