

Windmill Primary School



Reception Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 2 2017 Once Upon a Time & Christmas

Dear Parents/Carers,

We can't believe that the last 7 weeks have gone so quickly! The children have now settled well into school life and are already showing a great thirst for learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Now your child is settled here at Windmill Primary School, we will be encouraging much greater independence from the children to ensure they become responsible within our community. I'm sure that most of you will agree that already in a few short weeks your child has adapted to school life and is beginning to understand routines. This term we will be focusing further on routines and expectations to ensure that we all play our part in keeping happy, healthy and safe. We will also be developing the children's confidence and self-esteem as they prepare to deliver their first ever Christmas production at Windmill!

Once upon a time /Christmas

Our theme for Autumn 2 is "Once upon a time & Christmas!" This theme will be based around traditional tales and fairy tales during November and lead us into Christmas activities in December. We also hope to be walking to the church in December to see it decorated ready for the festive celebrations.

Communication Language and Literacy

In English, the children will be continuing their Read, Write, Inc sessions where they are learning phonic sounds in order to help them learn to read and write. The children love these lessons and it is a lively and positive way to learn. Regular practise of these and blending sounds together, both in and out of school, is essential. Your child will bring home a phonics pack daily (which should also be **returned to school each day**). These are regularly updated with the sounds that your child is currently learning. It would also be great if you could explore books with your child at home and talk about the texts you have shared. If we could ask that as much reading is happening at home as possible - as ever, it doesn't matter what is being read as long as it is something that your child enjoys. Reading is not just about looking at books; early reading skills develop from recognising familiar logos and signs in the environment. Spotting these when you are out and about with your child helps to develop their reading skills in a fun way!

Maths

In maths, we adopted a mastery approach last year. Therefore, rather than focusing on moving up to higher numbers, we will consolidate our learning to 10 and working on our number sense, exploring what numbers are and the different ways we can represent them. We will also be looking at 2D shapes, naming them and exploring their properties.

Understanding the World/Expressive Arts and Design

These areas of learning will be closely linked with our theme "Once upon a time & Christmas!" Lots of collaging and modelling with recycled materials will be taking place to inspire the children's learning. The children will also be given opportunities to explore technology in school, especially the iPads.



Homework

This term your child will start to bring home their homework book. We would appreciate it if you could choose an activity to complete with your child each week to help them develop their core skills. Homework will be set on a Thursday and we ask for books to be returned on a Monday. Thank you for your support.

Interactive Learning Diary

Thank you to those of you that have already signed up for the Interactive Learning Diary (ILD) and are already contributing towards it regularly! We love to look at what the children have been doing at home and this all goes towards building a great learning journey for your child's first year at school.

Stay and Play Sessions

Next term we will be inviting you to one of our ever popular Stay and Play sessions with your child. We host these termly and invite you to come in and see what your child is learning and allow them to show you around their environment. Watch this space as we will soon be announcing a date!

Key Dates: -see attached sheet

Overview of Reception themes for the rest of the year and approximate costs for enrichment

Autumn 2	Once upon a time/Christmas –During this term we hope to walk the children down to the Church to celebrate Christmas time. We also plan on taking the children to the library and registering them to enable all children to have access to lots of books and resources that they can borrow. We hope to make these library visits a termly event.
Spring 1	Dinosaurs – We are hoping that we will be able to find a visitor that will come into school to show and talk about lots of different fossils.
Spring 2	Fantastic Fantasy Worlds – We are planning on having lots of fun this term with lots of our learning based upon Superheroes – We will even be making our own Superhero pants!
Summer 1	Alive and Kicking – We are really excited about this term as we embark on lots of learning about nature and animals. We plan to take the children on a trip to the Zoo, this will cost approximately £18. We will also be embarking on Nature walks in the local area.
Summer 2	Seasides, Pirates and Mermaids – Finally as we approach our final term we are planning on creating lots of fun adventures in school and building our own little seaside that we can have lots of fun in!

Thank you for your support. Have a super rest during half term and we will see you bright eyed and bushy tailed in November!

Mrs D Frost and Miss E Loasby

Reception Team.