

Whimble Primary School

Curriculum Newsletter - Reception



Year: Reception Autumn Term 2021

Elm Class Topic: Once upon a time (traditional tales)/Castles

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Now that the children have settled into school, we will focus on developing independence, building on relationships with staff and children and the positive contributions the children make to their class and to each others learning. We will explore their sense of belonging; to Elm class and Whimble Primary School. We will help the children to develop their understanding of the classroom rules and procedures, and how the Apple characters of Whimble Primary School, and the 6Rs help us to be part of our class and the wider school community. We will continue to build on the skills of turn taking, sharing resources and working together.

We will support the children to recognise and understand their emotions and help them to manage them appropriately, developing their problem solving skills and resilience. These skills will also be developed through our 'Jigsaw' PSHE lessons and circle time sessions.

We will support and encourage the children to further develop their independence in self-care; changing for PE lessons, opening packaging for lunches and snacks, using the toilet and having drinks independently and at appropriate times, putting on jumpers, coats and gloves and retrieving and returning books, equipment and resources independently. We will encourage the children to wait their turn to speak in conversations and class discussions.

How to help: Give your child time to practice changing their clothes independently. Talk to your child about how they are feeling and name these emotions.

Communication and Language

We will continue to provide opportunities for the children to develop their speaking and listening skills through daily teaching sessions and the continuous provision activities. They will listen to different versions of traditional stories and discuss similarities and differences. Children will retell traditional tales through role-play and the use of puppets. They will listen to and follow 2 and 3 step instructions. The children will be encouraged to express their ideas, contribute to discussions and develop their vocabulary through a language rich environment, including daily story time sessions in the library, listening to a poem a day, regular group reading sessions and weekly whole class book club time.

How to help: Share different versions of traditional stories (such as Goldilocks, The three little pigs etc). Give your child specific instructions to follow (for example can you build a tower with 6 bricks using 2 different colours?).

Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of activities including PE lessons and our 'Funky Fingers' sessions. We will focus on developing muscle tension and accuracy using the Real PE scheme. Funky fingers will include activities such as cutting out shapes, cutting playdough using a knife and fork and pencil control activities.

How to help: Give your child lots of opportunities to practise hopping, jumping, skipping, climbing and balancing. Assist your child in knowing how to use a knife and fork, to practice opening tubs and packets and pouring their own drinks from a jug. Encourage the use of fine motor skills in play

through the use of threading, drawing and cutting activities and construction toys with small parts such as Lego® bricks.

Mathematics

Number - we will continue to develop knowledge of number to 10, to subitise groups of objects to 5 and then 10 (saying the amount without counting), to count groups of objects accurately saying one number name for each item and to recognise numerals to 10 and beyond. We will develop the use of the language of 'more', 'less' and 'fewer', and the vocabulary of addition and subtraction (take away, subtract, add etc). **Shape** - We will build on our 2d shape work and explore, name and describe 3d shapes. We will compose and decompose shape, to find shape within shapes (e.g 2 triangles can make a square). The children will develop their vocabulary of position, size, money and time. We will also develop the concept of measuring using non-standard units. We will explore length, mass and capacity through a range of practical and fun activities.

How to help: *Play maths games like snakes and ladders. Count forwards and backwards. Subitise out loud "You have 3 blueberries on your plate". Ask questions - who has more? What would 1 less be? Explore the capacity of different containers (e.g. at bathtime) and encourage your child to help with measuring and adding spoonfuls and cupfuls of ingredients during baking.*

Literacy (reading and writing)

Phonics - We will continue to teach discreet phonics lessons using synthetic phonics. The children will be introduced to phonemes containing 2 letters (digraphs e.g. sh and ai) and 3 letters (trigraphs e.g air, igh). We will blend and segment sounds in simple words (e.g song, wish, tail).

How to help: *Share the phonics home-learning sheet, so that you know which sounds are being taught in class and you are able to support your child with their phonics at home. Look for taught phonemes in books and print in the environment (on posters and signs). Make up 'silly sentences' using target phonemes e.g hippos hopping up the hill, shiny shells on a ship.*

Writing - We will continue to work on developing correct pencil grip and good pencil control through a range of writing and fine motor control activities and the use of the Letter Join handwriting program. We will write familiar words, labels and simple captions using our phonic knowledge. We will promote opportunities for the children to write during their independent learning and play activities.

How to help: *Try to encourage the correct pencil grip and letter formation. Encourage your child to make marks and 'write' in their play using a range of media in both drawing and painting activities! (e.g. make labels for a role play shop or write the customer's orders when playing 'cafes'). When writing their own name encourage your child to use a capital letter at the beginning and then lower case letters.*

Reading - We will continue to share a range of books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. We will focus on traditional tales and stories from other cultures. The children will continue to bring home group-reading books linked to their phonic knowledge to practise their reading skills. They will continue to bring home a list of words to learn to recognise and read 'on sight' which will help to develop their accuracy and fluency when reading.

How to help: *Reading little and often is key in helping your child to progress. Re-read group-reading books at home and discuss the content. Regularly practise reading the word box lists. Share the children's library books and a wide range of other books that you have access to at home. It is so important to instill a love of books and reading at this early stage.*

Understanding the World

Materials - we will explore, name and describe different materials and look for examples of these in our immediate environment. We will explore places which are special to us and learn how different people and cultures may have different places which are special and significant to them. Seasonal changes - we will look at changes as we move from Winter into Spring and explore celebrations in the Spring, including Easter. We will continue to develop our skills when using ICT devices such as i-pads, cameras and programmable toys and focus on logging on and using specific programs to support our learning with greater independence. In our castles topic we will explore who might live in a castle, including kings and queens, including members of our royal family. We will look closely at seeds and plants, plant some of our own and observe these as they grow.

We will explore maps and draw our own maps linked to our traditional tales. We will develop language and vocabulary when using these to gather information and describe features (e.g. hill, river, forest).

How to help: Discuss everyday objects around us and what these might be made out of. Explore the garden and discuss what you see and hear and identify any signs of Spring. Talk about places you visit regularly, naming places, buildings and features in your local area, including places which are special to your own family. Explore the garden or park, commenting on the plants and animals you see. Help your child to practice typing their own name and other simple words with the keyboard function when using a device. Use Purple Mash and Doodle Maths at home.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will explore our topics of traditional tales and castles through role-play and small world play. We will use a variety of media in our art and craft activities and will develop our skills in 3d art and modelling using recycled junk materials to make 3d houses. We will explore how to join different materials. We will also explore collages and make our own. We will develop our observation and drawing skills. We will listen and respond to a range of music through our continuous provision activities including the outside music area, un-tuned percussion and through our music sessions using the Charanga Music programme.

How to help: Sing simple songs and rhymes with your child and listen to a range of music. Encourage your child to use a range of media and materials in their art and craft activities at home and encourage selection of appropriate colours when drawing.