

Whimble Primary School

Spring Curriculum Newsletter

Elm Class Reception



Elm Class Topic: People who help us/Traditional tales

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 other's learning. We will explore their sense of belonging; to Elm class and Whimble Primary School. We will help the children to further 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 lesson units of Dreams & Goals and Healthy Me. These skills will also be developed through our circle time sessions.

We will support and encourage the children to further develop their independence in self-care; changing independently 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 practise 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 our continuous provision activities. The children will listen to and explore a range of texts, including specific fiction and non-fiction books linked to our topics and our 'Top 5' books. 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 sharing and listening to texts during carpet time, weekly visits to the library, exploring our 'Top 5' books, regularly listening to poems, and during group reading sessions.

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. We will also focus on readiness for writing through our handwriting sessions, where we will help the children to develop correct posture and grip as well as the correct formation of letter shapes and numbers.

How to help: Give your child lots of opportunities to practice 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 comparison - ‘more’, ‘less’ and ‘fewer’. **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 the synthetic phonics program ‘Little Wandle’. The children will build on their phonic knowledge by continuing to learn 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), continue to add to the number of tricky words the children can read and recognise on sight and apply this knowledge when reading simple sentences and writing words.

How to help: 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. Listen to your child read their school reading book and encourage them to practice blending the sounds to read the words. Practice recognising and reading on sight the ‘tricky words’ in your child’s blue book and together share the library books your child selects to bring home.

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 through the use of our daily Funky Fingers activities, Squiggle & Wiggle sessions and our taught handwriting sessions. 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 (continuous provision).

How to help: Try to encourage the correct pencil grip and letter formation. You can do this by using the phrase “pinch, pinch, flip” which we use in class to remind the children how to hold their pencil correctly. 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 of their name only, and then lower-case letters.

Reading – We will continue to share a range of books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. 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 practice reading the tricky words in their blue books. 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

We will continue to explore the world around us and to develop our vocabulary in order to name and describe different objects and materials in our environment, using all of our senses. 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, Chrome Books and programmable toys. We will focus on logging on and using specific programs to support our learning with greater independence. We will look closely at seeds and plants, plant some of our own and observe these as they grow. We will look at the history of toys and how they have changed over time.

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.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will explore our topics of People who help us and then Traditional tales through role-play and small world play. We will learn about the artist Paul Klee and use a variety of media and techniques to make our own collages. We will also explore printing and how to use different materials to make prints and learn how print is used around us. Linked to our topics we will design and make our own freestanding structures using a range of tools and materials. 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 program.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Remember we are always available to answer any queries or concerns.

We look forward to a fun and successful Spring Term.

Miss Corwood & Mrs Handley

