

## SPRING TERM 1 – FOUNDATION OVERVIEW OF LEARNING

Our topic for the spring term will be winter and seasonal changes. The children will be immersed in all things wintery from snowy small worlds, icy experiments and exploring the season changes in our forest. We will be listening to stories such as Snow Bears and One Snowy night to ignite imagination and develop the children's vocabulary. After celebrating the amazing achievements of our first term we will now begin to focus on developing the children's independence further, empowering them to make their own decisions, problem solve and increase resilience to challenges. We will be introducing more variety to our self-service snack area where the children can make choices from a menu and prepare it for themselves. The children will be developing essential life skills, understanding the importance of a healthy well-balanced diet.

**Phonics;** The children will continue to take part in daily Read Write Inc. lessons. After assessments the children have been grouped by ability and will move to the appropriate group to ensure continued progression. Depending on the children's grouping they will be bringing home daily sound sheets, ditties, blending books or reading books in their book bags. Please check these every day and support your child to practice reading and writing the letter sounds at home, little and often at home really does make all the difference. Please also remember to note home reading in the record so the children can be awarded their stars. Every 5 reads the children are awarded a star and for each star they receive a raffle ticket with an opportunity to win a new reading book. The children are also rewarded with Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum certificates as they earn their stars. Book changes in school are on a Tuesday and Friday.

**Maths;** We will be continuing to follow the White Rose Maths scheme and number blocks. This half term, we will introduce zero, compare quantities in mass and capacity ensuring children learn the correct vocabulary to describe more and less.

**Understanding the World;** The children have absolutely loved sharing their adventures with Ekta the Elephant and Leo the Leopard and we have all enjoyed looking at the pictures, hearing about, birthdays, trips away, visits to the washing machine and much more. Please reassure the children that if they haven't had the opportunity yet their turn will come. We love to learn about as many cultural festivals and celebrations as possible and this term we will be learning about the Lunar New Year. If we have any families that celebrate this festival we would love to invite you in to share your experiences with the children so please let us know if you are available.

**Outdoor learning;** Our fantastic forest area gives us the perfect backdrop for exploring the signs of changes in seasons and what winter looks, feels and smells like. We will be thinking about how winter affects animals, investigating nocturnal and hibernating animals. We will be experimenting with temperatures, making colourful icy orbs observing the process of melting.

**Physical development;** The children will continue to access activities that will develop both fine and gross motor skills from climbing in forest fun to threading and weaving. They will continue to have a PE lesson each week, this will take place on a Friday afternoon for both classes. The children have developed excellent listening skills and are able to negotiate space and obstacles safely so we will be developing these skills further focusing on the precision of these movements and accuracy with throwing, rolling and catching. Please remember to send your child to school dressed in PE clothes, with long hair tied back and earrings removed. Sometimes PE is outside so during colder and sometimes wet weather please ensure they have suitable footwear.

**Expressive Arts & Design;** The children will continue working with different media and materials. To increase opportunities for individual expression the children will have free flow access to a "junk model shop" where children can help themselves to items and follow their own interests. We hope you will enjoy seeing their creations. To keep us well stocked we would be very grateful for contributions from home. We just ask that any packaging donated is clean and safe for the children. Our music lessons and weekly assembly provide the children with opportunities to learn new songs, explore instruments and immerse themselves in a variety of genres from the traditional to rock.

**Home Learning;** The value of reading and being read to at home is immeasurable. It supports cognitive development, extends vocabulary, imagination, creativity and cultivates a lifelong love of reading so we encourage all our families to share the experience of storytelling on a daily basis. Children will continue to enjoy the library on a Thursday afternoon so please ensure they have their book bags with library books and reading records in school. Children are awarded a star for every five reads at home so please support them by noting any reading in their record books. As mentioned dependent on your child's Read Write Inc group there will be a sheet to practise the sound they have learned that day, a ditty or book. Please make sure when you have practiced at home books are kept in book bags so they are always available to exchange in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Cobley & Miss Catlin

Foundation Team