



PLAINS FARM ACADEMY

Reception NEWSLETTER



COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE & LITERACY



Every morning and home time the children go into their key groups and they are encouraged to speak confidently about their likes, interests and any news they would like to share. We try to develop vocabulary by introducing new activities and resources. We encourage children to ask questions to help develop their own knowledge & understanding. They are also encouraged to listen to others. All children will take part in discrete phonics activities where they will be introduced to letter sounds and build upon sounding out words. They will then be learning how to read and spell words. Using their knowledge of letter sounds. All activities are catered to each child's ability to help them progress with their learning. Children take part in weekly guided reading and writing sessions in which teachers will support their developing skills in both areas.

MATHEMATICS



We will be looking at numbers and shapes in a variety of ways. Some children are working with numbers to 5, 10 or 20. We encourage counting at every opportunity possible and are supporting the children to recognise numbers in the environment as well as being able to order them correctly. We will begin with working with 2D shapes and then move onto 3D shapes. The children will have lots of opportunities to sing number rhymes, both in small key worker groups and whole class activities, in order to allow them to get used to numbers in every day situations. We will be using shapes for a range of different activities including making pictures, models, playing practical games and games on the computer. Children will also be introduced to mathematical language related to size, weight and capacity.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD



We will be investigating many natural objects and going for walks around our school grounds to observe changes to the environment, as we move into a new season, and explore living things. We have a range of sensory activities where children are encouraged to explore and discuss the natural materials they have found and explain what they feel, smell and look like. We will be following the children's interests closely to move forward with our new topic, 'Transport.' We will focus on different themes each week such as cars, trains, aeroplanes and boats. Alongside this we will also run a mini topic, 'People who help us,' linking it closely to the transport they use. For example, talking about how the police use a wide variety of transport for different purposes.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



We will focus on making and building relationships. All staff have been getting to know the children in their key groups really well. Children will be encouraged to form relationships with each other and be able to share and co-operate in the classroom. Throughout the term Reception will continue to talk about getting along with each other, recognising and respecting the feelings and beliefs of each other and developing their social skills. They will be thinking about the consequences of their actions and why we have certain rules in our school. We have a behaviour system in our classroom where children can earn green happy faces for positive behaviour and good work. Children can also receive sad red faces with consequences being: 1-A warning 2- an Amber face. 3-A red face. 4- time on the thinking chair 5- time out of their classroom with another member of staff to reflect.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



Children will continue their physical development through P.E sessions with our coach. This term our P.E lessons will be every **Friday**. The children will have access to our outdoors everyday in which they can use bikes, scooters and other wheeled toys. Children also have the space to run and move in a larger space to help develop large gross motor skills. During daily activities children are encouraged to use various tools such as scissors, dough cutters and cooking equipment whilst in the classroom to support the development of their fine motor skills. We will be doing weekly dough disco sessions to develop their 'writing muscles' The children love to take part in this!

EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN



Children join in with music and art activities on a daily basis linked to our topic. We will listen to different types of music and move to them imaginatively. We will create images of ourselves using a range of media including paint, pencils and collage materials. We encourage children to access creative materials independently and to create things using their imagination, which they can then take as props into their own play. Children create using junk materials, paints, and a range of collage materials. Children are also encouraged to use their imagination during role play and story telling. This helps with vital skills needed to be a good writer in the future.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Read as much as you can with your child. Share a range of stories with them and help them develop a love of books. Reading with your child helps develop so many vital skills needed to become a good reader and writer.
- Count with your child during everyday situations e.g. Setting the table 'How many plates do we need?' Counting the stairs in the house.
- Point out numbers in the environment e.g. On house doors, on car number plates etc.
- Talk to your child about what they have been doing at school, the pictures they bring home and what they enjoy doing.
- Share what your child does at home with the staff so we can get a full picture of their interests and ability.
- As children bring home their homework every Friday, help them to complete this and return it back to school by the following Thursday.
- If you have any concerns at all about your child please speak to a member of staff as soon as possible.
- Bring in any old boxes or recyclable materials for our creative areas.