



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. As the children become confident with blending to write, they will start to develop words into sentences. Children take part in weekly reading and writing sessions in which teachers will support their developing skills in both areas. This term the children will always take part in weekly guided reading sessions.

MATHEMATICS



We will be looking at numbers and shapes in a variety of ways. Most children are now working with numbers to 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 also be looking at one more and one less. This term the children will look at the concepts of doubling and sharing.

We will be looking at common 3D shapes and their properties. 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, 'Mythical Beasts.' We will focus on different aspects of the mythical genre each week, such as, witches, wizards, dragons, castles and of course the famous Harry Potter! We are planning to look at lots of different castles that have actually been in use in the past. The children will have the opportunity to share any stories they have of times when they may have seen or visited a castle with their families.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



We will continue to make and build relationships with peers and familiar adults. All staff now know the children in their key groups really well. Children will continue to 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.



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, that you may hear in a castle or at a witches party, and move to them imaginatively. We will create images of a range of mythical beasts, 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. This term our role play is taking place within our own classroom castle!

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.
- Encourage your child to write as much as possible at home (stories or a shopping list). Children should now be writing in sentences.
- 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. Children should now recognise numbers 1-20.
- 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.