

January 2021

Term - Spring 1

Foundation 1

Dear Parents and carers, Welcome back, we hope everyone had a lovely Christmas holiday and you are all safe and well.

VERY IMPORTANT If you have not applied for a place for your child to attend the Reception class in September please do so immediately as the closing date is 15th January 2021. Please apply on line @ <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/primary-admissions>

We welcome our new children and families who are joining us in the afternoon nursery. We are sure you will all have a lovely time in our Nursery.

Our Topic's begin with a question to encourage the children to be inquisitive, our question this half term is -'What can we do with water?' The planning always starts with the children's ideas so when I asked them what they knew about Water they told me 'It comes from the clouds in the sky', 'We wash the Covid germs away with water' and 'You can splash in puddles'. Then someone mentioned going fishing, this went to boats and we ended up with Pirate ships. Before the end of term we make a Pirate ship for our main role play area. The children also mentioned ice so we have make an ice investigation area in the water tray with small world arctic animals and an Inuit family with an igloo. This will support the children's social skills, speaking and listening, understanding of rhyme which is our phonics focus this half term as well as many Scientific and mathematical concepts as we experiment with ice.

On Tuesday's the children will be starting P.E. in the hall, they do NOT need a P.E. kit. For this we will be taking our shoes and socks off and then putting them back on again at the end (this is to prepare them for the Reception class and increase their independence).

Could you please encourage your child to do this at home, if they don't already, so that we can enjoy longer doing our activities. All the children have managed to put their own shoes on after our outdoor days so it is not too much advancement.

Week 1+ 2 We will be creating our new roleplay area. The children will be making treasure maps, telescopes and learning some pirate songs. They will be finding the hidden treasure during our maths activities, counting and recognising numbers as well as using the programmable beebots to find the treasure on the Island map. Alongside the pirate activities we will be asking the children what they want to achieve in the next few weeks, a goal or New Year's resolutions that we can help them to work towards. These will be displayed in class and I will also send a duplicate card home so that we can all work towards them as a home/school team to help the children achieve them.

Week 3 During this week we will be Pirate Scientists, we will be conducting our water investigations. We will be transporting water down the water chutes outside to see how much we can collect at the end. We will also be making 'Pirate stripey lollies' (with healthy fruit juice). We will also be learning about Ice. We will be looking at it, feeling it, describing it and as Pirates we will be trying to melt it to get the Gold from within. During our P.E. sessions as pirates, we will practice our balancing skills by walking the plank and practice our ball control by rolling a cannon ball at the bowling pins.

We will be looking at our 'goals' to see if we can overcome any challengers we might face.

Week 4 This week we will look at the wild animals in Britain and the birds that visit our school field. We will be finding out how we can help them e.g. make a bird feeder for the birds and making a Winter home for the Mini beasts that live on our field. We will also be looking carefully at the birds to see if we can identify them.

Home Task – The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch is during the weekend 29th-31st January, if you would like to take part at home you can order a free pack at <https://www.rspb.org.uk> . If you do so please bring in a copy of your bird tally and any photographs you might have taken so that we can add the birds to our class bird identity parade.

Week 5 Our final Pirate week will be Pirate crafts week, we will be making pirate hats and hooks for our Pirates party on the last day of the half term Thursday 11th February. We will also be learning about floating and sinking with the pirates in our water tray and finding out the answers to the children's questions 'What happens to the rain?' and 'Where does our wee go?'.

Week 6 This week is Art week in school, as it is also Chinese New Year on Friday 12th we will combine the two. This year is the year of the Ox. We will be learning the story of 'The Great Race', making Dragon mask and having a go at a Dragon dance. This will be from Monday to Wednesday as it is a teacher training day on Friday 12th therefore school will be closed on that day. We will be having our Pirate party in Nursery on Thursday 11th. For the party the children can come dressed as Pirates, please do not spend a lot of money on this, girls could wear stripy tights, a skirt and a stripy t-shirt. Boys could wear short trousers and a stripy t-shirt.

In our maths sessions we will be

- Counting gold coins and matching the quantity with the number.
- measuring a variety of Pirate objects to order them by their length or height into smallest/tallest.
- Using 2D shapes to make pictures as well as using our hands to identify the shapes we find whilst bind fold – this is lots of fun once the children are confident enough to stop peeking.

We will also be looking at our New Year's resolutions; the children who have achieved them will receive a certificate for this.

In our phonics sessions the theme is Rhythm and rhyme, so we will be reading lots of rhyming books, playing rhyming pairs games and making rhyming strings of as many words as possible. If you don't have any rhyming books at home to support this learning theme, we have plenty in our Friday library if you would like to borrow them.

Don't forget that if you have a problem or question about Nursery or want to come in and help, please come in to see Mrs Haycock.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Haycock, Mrs Newby and Ms Foster - Your Nursery team.