

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our Duckling class. Our first half term's topic is 'A long, long time ago...'. We will be focussing on knights and castles and fairy tales. We chose this topic after speaking to lots of nurseries about your children's interests and hope this topic will be one that all of our new Ducklings will enjoy. This overview will show you some of the things we will be covering. If you have any questions please do pop in and ask. Miss Bestwick ☺

Music (creative development)

This half term we are focusing on confidence to join in songs and to sing in a group. Children will learn a range of routine songs and other songs from the music basket and will be encouraged to join in. We hope to then see children create their own songs and experiment with instruments and props without encouragement. If your child has a favourite song please let me know as we will play this in shakey wakey and dough disco.

Computing

Every week your child will have access to a range of computing equipment. Adults will model how to use this equipment throughout the day and children will be encouraged to use them when appropriate. Once children are confident with our range of computing equipment we will start to have some short topic inputs on new ways to use equipment. I am sure they will be better than me at using some of the equipment!

Things to look for and do at home:

Every day your child will have access to indoor and outdoor continuous provision. In addition to this they will have daily phonics, literacy, numeracy and topic short sessions. Weekly they will also have guided reading and nurture group sessions.

Please support your child at home by:

- Hearing your child read daily and recording it in their diary
- Completing their weekly mathletics challenges
- Practise reading and writing their tricky words (reading for this half term's phonics assessment)
- Completing weekly phonics homework set
- Commenting on Tapestry especially if you have seen evidence of your child doing things at home that we have been practising at school!
- Practising cursive handwriting (kicks and flicks)

Attached to this letter is a letter about parent workshops we are running which you may find helpful in supporting your child with early reading, writing, maths and phonics skills.

Trips

At the start of the year we always book all of our educational trips linked to our learning themes. This year we have booked Warwick Castle, A Pirate's life and Sherwood Forest. A letter about these trips is attached behind this letter. We have provided the details of the trip as early as possible so that if needed you can arrange childcare arrangements, alter pick up and drop off arrangements and can budget for these trips in advance. Mrs Cooke takes care of booking our whole school trips. Near Christmas time she will send out a letter for a whole school Christmas trip and at the end of the year she will send out a letter for our whole school summer trip.

'A long, long time ago...'
Castles and Knights



Communication, Language and Literacy

This half term we will be getting to know each other during our show and tell sessions. Children will have the opportunity to ask why and how questions and deepen their understanding. During these sessions children will have the opportunity to explore using their present, past and future tenses and be encouraged to develop their own narratives and explanations.

Phonics

During this half term we will cover phase 1 phonics which gets your child's ears ready for listening to sounds in words. We will then start phase 2 phonics starting with single sounds such as s,a,t,p,i,n. We will be identifying initial sounds in words and eventually building these up in to simple words e.g. it, as, can, sat.

Reading

Reading is a crucial part in the early years curriculum. Every day we will be reading stories, chanting, singing, completing rhymes and reinacting stories with puppets and props. At Street Lane we encourage reading at home by having weekly reading treats for those who read 5 times a week at home (and have this recorded in their diaries). Each week the children vote for the treat they'd like.

Mathematics

This half term we will be focusing on 'numbers'. We will be starting by recognizing numerals to 5/10/20, counting groups of objects, counting actions, estimating how many are in a group, using the language of 'more' and 'fewer', working out 1 more and 1 less than a given number and beginning to use the language of addition and subtraction in practical situations.

Art and Design Technology

Both indoors and outdoors children will have the opportunity to explore all of our art equipment. We will be encouraging children to mix colours, create different textures, combine media, build with a purpose in mind and fetch their own resources.

Duckling class always need boxes and clean plastic containers for junk modelling so please drop any recycling you have in to the classroom.

PSED

This half term we will be focusing on 'making friendships'. We will play lots of games and do lots of activities to get to know one another. Once we have started to make friendships we will be starting our afternoon nurture sessions. In these sessions we will be practicing our listening and responding skills, turn taking skills and expressing emotions. We will also focus on 'managing behavior and feelings' as we get to know our new learning environment and learn the rules of Street Lane.

Knowledge and Understanding

We will be getting to know the environment around us. We will be thinking about weather, plants, animals and much more. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they have observed, why things happen, how things work, changes, similarities and differences. They will also think about showing care to the environment as part of Street Lane's work to obtain our Eco-friendly award.

RE

We will be preparing for our 'Harvest' assembly. We will be learning some of our favourite songs including 'apples' and 'big red combine harvester'.

Physical Development

At the start of the year children do not receive formal PE lessons. Instead daily inside and outside activities are planned that carefully develop both fine and gross motor skills. This half term we will be practicing moving in different ways and exploring all the new equipment at Street Lane.

Dinner and Snacks

This half term we will be focusing on 'health and self-care'. We will be thinking about how a knight can stay fit and strong. We will be encouraging independence at break times by showing children how to independently use our drinks and snack station and at dinner time by showing them how to join in with our 'family dining' routines.