

Foundation Stage Spring Term Overview

The themes for this term will be:
Dragons, Chinese New Year, Traditional Tales and Easter.

Do dragons exist?

Communication, Language and Literacy

In all areas of the curriculum, the children will be encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills within our 'communication friendly environment, through name games, our 'All About Me' box, retelling stories and through key texts e.g. 'The Great Race' and other stories. There will be continuous opportunities for a variety of role play situations, both indoors and out e.g. different types of transport and a Chinese takeaway role play. The children will be encouraged to use what they are learning to develop their own writing skills during independent play on our writing table both indoor and outdoor. The children will develop their phonic skills on a daily basis and will be bringing a book home to share daily. The Reception children will also be focusing on the tricky words that can not be sounded out. The children will develop their vocabulary through focused teaching of new words where they will collect and explore the meaning of these words.

Mathematical development

During this term, the children will work with numbers up to 20 developing their counting skills and using them in a variety of real life situations, in particular role play areas within the class. The children will begin to learn the number bonds to 5 and the language around totals. Reception will use a number line to count on or back which will be linked to our topics. The children will look at 2D Shapes and describe their features. They will look at patterns, including those seen in the environment. They will compare objects by weight and length, measuring themselves and objects around the classroom. The emphasis will be on practical activities and encouraging the children to develop their problem-solving skills. The children will be encouraged to explain their thinking, showing mastery of concepts and skills.

Characteristics of Learning: how your child learns

The children will be learning through finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to have a go. They will also be encouraged to get involved and concentrate on activities through perseverance and enjoy meeting their own challenges whilst developing their own ideas. Children will develop their critical thinking through making links, predictions and problem solving in their play.

Expressive Arts and Design

In art, the children will use thin brushes to recreate and invent Chinese style writing. They will make up a Chinese dragon dance using ribbons and coloured cloths with music. They will make Chinese fans by learning how to fold paper and practising their cutting skills using lanterns. They will be building models such as different homes, as part of the Traditional Tales topic. The children will use playdough to make different characters and also create artwork to support Talk for Writing as part of our English work. Whilst learning about Easter the children will create cards to celebrate with family.

Understanding of the World.

The children will cook rice and observe changes in state. They will explore what happens when noodles are added to water. We will have a 'Chinese food experience' and will learn some basic Chinese words. We will learn about Chinese writing and compare it to ours. Children will look at how Chinese families celebrate Chinese New Year and compare these celebrations to our own special occasions. They will learn the days of the week and use the language of 'yesterday, today, tomorrow'. The children will have opportunities to use ICT in a number of situations, including using a variety of computer programs and remote controlled devices. The children will use iPads to take photos and videos of their own and their friends learning.

Physical Development

The children will develop their physical skills during a range of activities, including Chinese dances and outdoor games. They will also have the opportunity to develop their balancing and riding skills using a range of outdoor equipment. The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills in the classroom. They will use a variety of writing equipment and will be taught to use a correct pencil grip. The children will continue to use their 'really great writing' folder where they will store their independent writing produced from our daily continuous provision including writing challenges, Mr Must tasks and all guided writing. We will look at our folders regularly and share them with our peers. They will be taught to use scissors, carefully and safely. Children will be taught about healthy eating through our daily café and trying new foods. They will continue to focus on using knives and forks to cut up their lunches and will also have ago at using use chopsticks. Children will also talk about ways to stay healthy and safe in our world.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be encouraged to follow the class expectations which they will think of themselves and to learn ways to stay safe at school. They will be encouraged to work together in groups and pairs to help develop this and to develop their relationships with others. The children will be encouraged to take turns, share and to listen to others in all situations and to use the 'Chat Mat' to begin to solve disagreements. The children will be encouraged to write a message using positive adjectives to describe a friend in a fortune cookie. We will continue to interview our Special Helper of the week to find more about them. This person will have extra responsibilities during the week such as organising the daily class timetable and watering the class plants.