

Oak Room Newsletter

The Spring term is an extremely exciting time in Oak Room!!



The children are feeling more confident and are really thriving, in our learning environment and exciting learning spaces. Exploring everything we offer with great enthusiasm and curiosity.



Mathematics

We will continue to use the subitising approach with the children subitising up to 5. To those families who are new to our school please speak to your child's keyworker and they will be happy to explain this to you.

We will begin to introduce the children to simple number problems to solve such as only having 3 cups when we need 5 how many more do we need? These number problems will be taught in a very practical way.

The children will play games using prepositions, these are words describing position such as on, in, under, behind etc. This vocabulary works very well with one of our core stories, The Billy Goats Gruff story as we act it out.

The children will be able to explore this physically themselves in our outdoor environments and in the block area with a variety of resources and equipment.

The children will be exposed to a variety of resources such as tape measures and weighing scales, to explore shape, size, weight and measure.

Personal Social Emotional Development

We will continue to learn to play alongside and with other children, developing warm relationships and making friendships. The children will also be encouraged to express their own feelings, thoughts and interests, as they continue to develop themselves as an individual.

Being able to manage their own feelings, emotions and being in control of their behaviours is huge at three and four years old. We will be exploring this lots with the children using mirrors, images and the real-life experiences to model, explain and demonstrate how we manage our own and respect other's feelings.

We have also been exposing the children to a variety of breathing techniques. This supports children to be able to self-regulate their emotions.

Traditional Stories



We continue to learn some more traditional tales and this half term our focus stories are.

'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Three Little Pigs'.



The children have become very confident in retelling stories that they know and do this in a variety of ways, such as looking at pictures, acting them out, using props and drawing their own story we look forward to the children taking on the characters in their play and pretending to be the Troll and The Big Bad Wolf!

We are focusing this term on really understanding that a story needs characters, a setting and a problem.

When the children really understand this, they can create their own stories and bring their own thoughts, ideas and interests into their stories.

Culture and celebrations

There are many festivals and celebrations this half term we will explore Chinese New Year—we will be reading the story, eating vegetable and noodle stir fry, trying out Chinese writing and watching Chinese dancing dragons and lions. We will also celebrate Shrove Tuesday and cook up some delicious pancakes, and we always love to read “Mr Wolf’s Pancakes”.

If you have any other special celebrations in your family, please tell us about them so we can talk to your child and the other children about them.

We love to see photographs of special celebrations so please put them onto your child’s Tapestry page.



Literacy

We love sharing and listening to stories with the children. This opportunity is giving the children the skills to make up their own stories in a range of diverse ways.

This term we will explore a variety of props for the children to engage in making up their own stories. The children will talk about the Character, setting, problem and solution as they begin to really understand the make-up of a story. The children will have many opportunities to physically play and act out their own stories.

All marks that the children make and are valued it is great when the children distinguish which marks are their drawing and which are writing giving an explanation to the adult, this will be greatly encouraged going forward for the rest of this academic year.

Marks are not only those seen on paper they are noticeable using chalk on the floor, water painting, painting, marks in sand etc. This term we are really encouraging creating many different patterns such as Zig zag, bumpy, wavy, straight, circular, crosses, grids etc. this really supports children’s early writing skills.

Many of the children are really interested in the letters that make up their name, we will be introducing grids to the writing area where the children can explore this further.

When doing this at home, it is important that we only use a capital letter at the beginning of their name, followed by lower case.

E.g FRED—No Fred—Yes

Understanding the World

Our children are showing their sense of curiosity all the time, investigating how things happen, change and how their physical actions can have an impact on this. We continue to offer the children many opportunities to explore this. Ice will be offered for the children to investigate the freezing and melting process.

Moving on from the changes of state (freezing and melting) we will then experiment with melting chocolate and cheese to see what happens to it, as it becomes warm and then cold again.

Rhymes and Poems

The children will continue to be introduced to a new rhyme/poem each week this enhances their vocabulary and their awareness of rhythm and rhyme.

Phonics

This term we are supporting children’s early phonics skills. The children are loving the syllable clapping at group times when saying hello to their friends, and when introducing exciting new vocabulary.

We have been chanting and tapping out beats as we explore the repetitive phrases from our traditional stories. Beat and rhythm are vital for children to explore at this early stage to support their phonological skills as they progress through nursery and into reception class at school.

We will continue to explore what our bodies can do, using a range of resources and materials both indoors and outdoors. The development of our large physical movements is paramount and vital to explore. A strong Core will enhance the children’s fine manipulative skills and really support them with pencil control at school.