



Hello everyone

Welcome back to Pre School and a Happy New Year to you all. We shall begin this year by talking about animals and the environments they live in. Obviously, our plans are flexible and if we get inundated with snow, we will change them accordingly or perhaps it will conveniently fall in Polar week!

This term we will be spending lots of time on maths getting the children familiar with shape and number and for those who are already familiar building on the knowledge to achieve higher goals. So please support your child's learning by counting at every opportunity the stairs, the steps to the car, windows on a house, lights on a tree or any of their toys and pointing out numbers when you see them on cars, houses or shop windows or you could draw some for them and put them with the correct number of objects. A copy of the EYFS goals is available if you're interested.

7-11 January

Great Britain

We will look at our home country first talking about woodland and farm. Hopefully it will be easy for the children to associate with as it is what they see all the time. We will make some salt dough mice, print with vegetables and do some bark rubbing. We have quite a lot of games on this theme so will take the opportunity to play them often the aim being to encourage the older children to be able to play them unsupervised. We shall finish the week with a smell test to see what the children can recognise. I am sure you must have some books or toys that reflect this theme so please let your child bring them in we would appreciate it. You can support your child learning by talking about the things you see in the village and beyond.

14-18 January

Rainforest

We shall begin by making some splash and fold butterflies then move on to creating some leaf cutter ants! We have a few magazines with pictures in but if you have any please bring them in to share with the children. There will be an opportunity for them to taste some more exotic fruit than usual and make their own bird of paradise. Then the children can investigate cause and effect with the chunnels and some pebbles. As a group hopefully, they will work together to make their own rainforest in a box.

21-25 January

Oceans

We will introduce maths in to the theme making a paper plate octopus and having a game of Octonauts Bingo. Then there are numerous books about the ocean and we will read and make a rainbow fish. Followed by some experiments with sinking and floating. Using paper plates, we will try and make some shells and finally make our own moon sand. If you have any resources that would add interest to our theme, please bring it in and share it with us. When your child is in the bath explore the different items that sink, and float get them to predict what might happen.

28-1 February

Snowy /Cold places

The week will begin with a talking table to see what the children understand about the poles of our planet. So, if you have any pictures or books please let us borrow them to support the children's learning. Penguins are the first creation we will be producing and then some snowy owls. One day during the week there will be a frozen day with music from the film and the children can dress up as a character from the film if they like, we do have a few costumes, so they can just use ours. We will probably make peppermint creams to eat that day and decorate some snowflakes to make things look wintery. It may snow this week which would be great!

4-8 February

Desert

At the opposite end of temperature is the desert! And one of the most impressive things in the desert is the pyramids! And the challenge for the week is to see if the children can build one for themselves. Using a variety of resources, it will be interesting to see which of the children rise to the challenge and offer a contribution to the building process. There will be activities involving some of the animals like Meerkats, camels and snakes, making mask and lizard puppets. There will be spaghetti snakes yuk! And paper plate tortoises and a chance to release some dinosaur eggs from the ice.

11-15 February

Air

Well what flies in the air birds of course, we shall be talking about birds from all over the world and the first day will be making the bird of their choice with lots of resources, mainly feathers. Then listening to different bird sounds see if we can identify them. A tasty treat with chocolate bird nests and a not so tasty treat using spaghetti as worms in the soil. Feeding the birds, very important in cold weather I am sure the children will enjoy making Bird treats. Finishing off with some experiments to see how fast different things travel through the air and how. And a few maths games along the way. Perhaps you have a bird's nest at home that would be good. But any resources greatly appreciated. Don't forget this is a four-day week we are Closed Friday 15th February for inset day.

All the goals we are aiming to achieve this half term are written on the board and of course we are completely flexible and alter everything to fit in with the children's interest, so activities are prone to change without notice. There are lots of activities out every day and the staff take photos and write observations all the time to continue and monitor your children's progress which is available for you to view at any time on tapestry. If you have any contributions of your own, please tell us we would be very happy to add contributions from you to the journal. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to ask. You should all have had reports or two-year checks and there is a parents evening on March 3rd, so this will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and be reassured regarding any concerns you may have.

For the July 19 leavers it is important that we work on their independence skills encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves. At Pre School we try to get them dressing themselves and using the resources like painting by themselves. I realise that at home especially if you're rushing about it's often easier to do it yourself but please try to let them do it for themselves. It's important for them to be as independent as possible when they go the school. As a help towards this after the next half term we invite the children to begin entering Pre School by themselves. There will be staff on hand to help them, but I think they will enjoy coming in like 'big' children and hanging up coats and bags. It will also increase their self-confidence as they succeed in this challenge.

Don't forget to send wellingtons because the children love to be outside and now, we have waterproofs we can make the most of every weather.

Thank You

Jane