



What will we be learning in Orchard Class during Term 1?

This term's focus topic is: "Fairytales"

Literacy

Phonics is our main aim this term - the children will begin learning four new sounds per week - we will hear the sounds that each letter makes, listen out for these sounds in words and learn the correct way of forming each of these letters in our writing.

We are also going to be looking closely at specific Fairy Tales during the term. The children will be acting out these stories using masks and puppets as well as discussing the language used within them and the roles of the characters within the books.

Mathematics

Counting rhymes and songs will be helping us this term to count reliably up to and beyond 20 as well as recognising the numbers to 10. Along with numbers we will also use our Fairy Tales creatively this term to help us learn about size, length, capacity and positional language.

Understanding the World

This term's topic lends itself brilliantly to this area of learning. Each week's Tale will help us to learn about plants and how they grow (Jack and the Beanstalk), materials and their properties (The Three Little Pigs) and animal life cycles (The Frog prince). The stories we read will also provide us with various fun Science based experiments which we are sure the children will love whilst challenging their thinking skills.

We are also going to be using various different forms of ICT in order to enhance our learning of these fantastic tales.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

Settling in is a key element to our PSED work this term, especially with the focus of "wellbeing," after the Covid-19 lockdown events in previous years. We will be talking about how to look after one another, how different people show different feelings and how to play fairly whilst looking after our toys. These types of discussions will happen through circle-time games, social stories, scenario discussions and general day to day routines and "get busy" times.

Expressive Arts & Design

Music and Art are going to be a real focus for this term in Orchard class - we are going to be learning lots of new songs which relate to our stories and really trying hard to focus our listening skills into different sounds and scenarios—something which will be really important going forward in school.

Creatively the children are going to be painting their own self portraits when looking in a mirror for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" and also creating some brilliant art work based around our Harvest stories — "The Gingerbread Man" and "The Little Red Hen."

We also hope to incorporate lots of cooking opportunities into this term also.

Physical Development

Developing our gross motor skills with balance, co-ordination and control is very important in Orchard class. We are going to be doing this through team games, group races, parachute games and "Fit in 5" daily physical exercise. We will also be taking part in the "Daily Mile" initiative as often as we can — walking for fun in many different ways in and around our school area.



Dates for your Diary



Term Dates for 2022/2023

Term 1 Starts: Tuesday 6th September
Term 2 Starts: Monday 31st October
Term 3 Starts: Wednesday 4th January
Term 4 Starts: Monday 20th February
Term 5 Starts: Tuesday 18th April
Term 6 Starts: Monday 5th June

Term 1 Finishes: Friday 21st October
Term 2 Finishes: Friday 16th December
Term 3 Finishes: Friday 10th February
Term 4 Finishes: Friday 31st March
Term 5 Finishes: Friday 26th May
Term 6 Finishes: Friday 21st July

Class Notes

Home/School Diary

Your child will be bringing a "Home/School diary" home with them this week, which will contain a little key information in the front of it, such as your child's House colour team which will be useful for you to know for future events and a class list which you may like for invitations and Christmas cards.

This book will be checked regularly so please feel free to use this book to record anything you feel is important for us to know - upcoming appointments, any changes in information, any specific news you would like us to know and also to ask any questions you may have.

If you have any questions, concerns or need to know anything please also get in touch via the phone or email. Our dedicated email address for myself and Orchard Class is: OrchardReception2020@quadringprimary.co.uk (This is not a typing error it will still be 2020 in the email address although the year is 2022.)

Uniform & belongings

Please could all children be provided with a waterproof coat and wellies for outdoor play which is kept in our class cloakroom. In Orchard class we have P.E. lessons on a Monday this term, however it would be helpful if children could have their kit in school every day throughout the week. Please ensure your child has kit for indoor and outdoor activities that are clearly named.

Please could you also ensure that all your child's belongings and items of clothing are clearly named (in particular fleeces, jumpers and cardigans) to prevent them getting mixed up and lost easily.

Tapestry & School Website

Many thanks to everyone who has returned their child's Tapestry account and personal information sheets already. By the end of this first week, all children and family members will hopefully have been added to our school Tapestry account and you should have all received an activation email in order to start seeing your child's observations.

If you have not returned the form yet, or you have not received an activation email by the end of the week, please do let me know and I will try and resolve this as soon as possible.

Please do keep checking our school website as it is regularly updated with information and details of what is happening within school. In particular, click on the "apple" icon in the tree on the Home page - and you will be able to find lots of information and photographs to show you what the children have been busy at during their time with us. There is already lots of information on there.

Reading/Homework

In Orchard class the children are given homework which we believe will enhance the learning that has taken place in the classroom. Sometimes this takes the form of phonics work, letter formation, number work and also research. This work is not compulsory but we would recommend completing it with your child as we know that the children like to keep their school life secret, so this is just a nice way to encourage them to share their learning with you.

All children will bring a reading book home with them, later this term, after we have covered some of our Phonics letters. More information on how home reading will work will also be sent out with your child's first reading book. In addition to their reading book, your child will bring home a "Phonics Sounds Booklet" which will contain the sounds they have learnt that week along with an explanation of the action we have learnt the sound with, and they will also have a "Key Words Tin" which will contain a few word cards for them to try and learn from sight. Practising these sounds and words daily with your child will really help their reading skills develop at a much brisker pace. Thank you!