



Autumn 2 Curriculum Newsletter

As we near the end of the first term of our school year, we celebrate the fabulous learning that has taken place in each class and think ahead to the next half-term.

Fox Class

Phonics

Since the start of November, Fox Class have covered the following sounds in class: ss, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh. Please continue to encourage your child to show you their robot arms and blending hands as they segment words (sound out) and blend these sounds together into words. You will have noticed that they have moved on from single letter sounds and are now learning **digraphs**-two letters making **one sound**, such as ch, sh, qu. They are also learning the harder-to-read-and-spell-words: *be, we, me, buses, she, he, his, as, pull*.

Please keep practising sound tins and flash card words at home because it all helps to develop quick recall of the sounds and words, which will lead to fluent reading.

On our website, you can watch the ELS videos for parents to help you to remember the way to say the sounds correctly when we are teaching and using phonics [Essential+Letters+and+Sounds](#)

Reading

We have been reading lots of different fairy tales; probably our favourite was The Gingerbread Man because we got to bake gingerbread!

Maths

The children have been consolidating their understanding of numbers up to 5; how to make the number, what that looks like as an amount, how to write the number, where the number sits on a number line, how to count that amount of objects. They have been comparing two numbers, saying which is the bigger/smaller number, or comparing amounts and saying which amount is more/less. They have been doing some work on 'one more' and understanding that as the number that comes next on the number line, or the number we say next when we are counting. They have been talking about 2D shapes, in particular circles and triangles.

Understanding the World

We have been pondering why do we have celebrations? Why do we celebrate different events? What do you celebrate as a family? What is Diwali/Christmas and why are they celebrated? We wrote beautiful letters to Father Christmas and went to post them in our local post box.



Squirrel Class

Phonics

So far, Squirrel Class have covered the following sounds in class: ou, ey, a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e (split digraphs), soft 'c', y and al. They are also revising the harder-to-read-and-spell-words: *please, once, who, whole, where, again, two*. Please keep practising these at home because it all helps to develop quick recall of the sounds and words, which will lead to fluent reading. We read in class as part of our phonics lessons each day, as well as reading with an adult 1:1 throughout the week.

English: Jane Considine scheme

At the start of November, we looked at Firework poems and wrote our own. Our recent writing focus has been on *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin. We have been telling to story of the journey and learning about different features of writing including: onomatopoeia, similes and dialogue. Our handwriting focus has been on 'one armed robots': r, b, n, h, m, k, p.

Maths

Working within 0-10, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction; this has enabled us to develop our understanding of different strategies, with a focus on part-part-whole models and bar models.



History

In History we have been learning Transport; the children have learned about how cars, buses and trains were invented and how they have changed over time.

Science

The children have been learning to distinguish between objects and the materials from which they are made. They have learned to identify a range of everyday materials and describe some simple properties and their uses. They can compare and group together different materials based on their properties.

Fromow Gardens



The children represented our school brilliantly and the residents really enjoyed listening to all of the songs from our Nativity.

Hedgehog Class

Phonics

So far, Hedgehog Class have covered the following sounds in class: augh, al *as in palm*, ss *as in permission*, si *as in illusion*, ci *as in special*, se *as in house* and *cheese*, ere. They are also learning the Common Exception Words for Year 2. Please keep working on these words at home because it all helps to develop quick recall of the sounds and words, which will lead to fluent reading. We read in class as part of our phonics lessons each day, as well as reading with an adult 1:1 throughout the week. Our handwriting focus has been on 'one armed robots': r, b, n, h, m, k, p.

English: Jane Considine scheme.

The children have used *Meercat's Christmas* by Emily Grant as inspiration and learned different features of writing such as similes, alliteration and using time phrases (first, then, lastly); the children have written detailed postcards inspired by the story.

Maths

The children have been practising counting in different steps of 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s. They have been developing their understanding of addition and subtraction, particularly when they need to exchange a ten. They have been adding two two-digit numbers where they need to exchange as well as subtracting a two-digit number from another two-digit number. They are using their knowledge of inverse operations and commutativity to help us solve missing number problems.

History

Building on our learning about The Great Fire of London, we have been learning about what happened as a consequence of the great fire and in particular, how the Fire Brigade was established. This links nicely with the Reception topic, 'People Who Helped Us' and we have remembered when the Fire Brigade came to visit us in school.

'The Great Fire of Windlesham' was a great way to recap all of our History learning this term.



Science: Uses of everyday materials

This unit of learning develops the knowledge that the children gained in Year 1 when they were finding out about Everyday Materials. The children have been thinking about which materials are used for different things and why, by drawing on their knowledge of the properties of the different materials that they know about. They have used this knowledge to identify suitable materials to fit a brief e.g. what material is best for a racing car windscreen, and why?

What is Trick Box?



Trick Box – Building Health Life Habits

Trick Box is a simple, fun and effective whole school - whole journey, emotional management and personal development programme which supports children and their families.

Trick Box helps the children to:

- Recognise and self-manage emotions
- Develop effective coping mechanisms
- Develop mindful awareness and relaxation
- Problem-solve, develop perspective and create solution-thinking
- Build motivation and enhance personal learning
- Set and achieve positive goals
- Develop communication skills to enhance interpersonal relationships
- Develop empathy

Reception children learn a new trick every half term and KS1 children learn a new trick every term.



Mirror Mirror

Say nice things to yourself, even in the mirror.

The children in reception have been learning the trick 'Mirror Mirror'. We talked about how important it is to have a positive self-image. We don't want to develop negative self-talk patterns which will make us anxious and will negatively affect how we feel. We looked in mirrors and talk positively to ourselves. We practiced saying 'Well done,' 'you did your best,' 'you are doing your best,' 'keep going'. We made our own mirrors and said what we like about ourselves and what we are good at.



Year 1- “Big Voice.”

When we face a challenge, it can be easy to give up; talking to ourselves with a positive, big voice can help us keep going and succeed and we are practising saying to ourselves, “I can do it!”



Year 2- ‘Magic Circle.’

When we do or say things in a confident way, we get feedback from the world, as well as from our internal system. The more confident experiences we have, the more confident we feel and act. The children are asked to think about something that they enjoy doing and that they are good at; they make a ‘magic circle’ with their thumb and middle finger. They close their eyes, breathe through their nose deeply and think about doing that thing which makes them feel strong and confident inside, squeezing their thumb and finger together. This creates an ‘anchor’ that they can use whenever they need a confidence boost.

E-Safety Parent/Carer Information sessions from Knowsley Council

We hope you are finding the monthly newsletters useful. As part of our package, we are able to offer information sessions for you each term; these sessions will be repeated termly to provide multiple opportunities for parents to attend but parents only need to attend one as content will be fairly similar (just updated as and when required). Each session lasts 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes Q&A if required.

These sessions are designed to support parents/carers in protecting their children and to help them understand the risks associated with using technology. The session will cover –

- *Current trends – what children are doing online, what apps/ games are popular amongst children.*
- *Understanding the Risks – a look at the risks associated with using technology, in particular when using social media, online gaming & live streaming.*
- *What can you do – some suggestions for how you can support your child with their online lives and what parental controls are available to help you.*
- *Further Support – signposting to services that are available to help you if you need it.*

Autumn Term recording of Parent/Carer session:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gmaT9qWvRVpcUT_dHn-oNTGoU1vSP7Vz?usp=sharing

Future dates (links to follow)

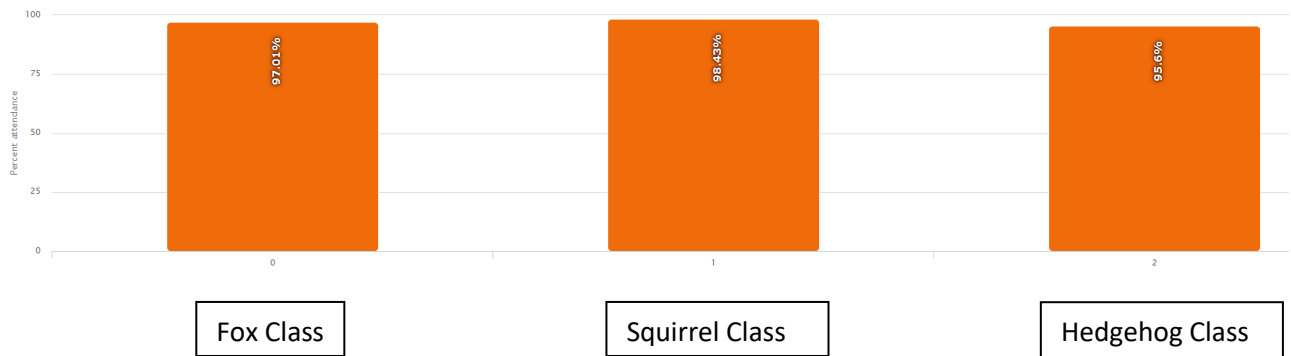
Spring: Wednesday 31st January 2024 – 9.30am – 10.15am

Summer: Wednesday 8th May 2024 – 4pm – 4.45pm

Attendance

We hope that all of our children are able to attend school 100% of the time. A child is considered to have Persistent Absence if their attendance falls below 90%; this is always cause for concern.

As we approach the end of term, analysing attendance from 1st November-11th December:



Well done Squirrel Class! Year 1 have the best attendance in Autumn 2 with 98.43%!

We will email everyone's attendance certificate for this half-term before the end of this week.