



EARL STERNDALE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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In School This Term – Autumn 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new term at school. We hope that the children are all ready and excited to be coming back to a new school year. This term promises to be as challenging as ever, especially for those children starting in a new class. Below you will find an outline of what the children in each class will be doing this term:

Class 1

EYFS – All About Me

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Your child's first term at school is a particularly special and exciting one. To complement this new chapter in their lives and to promote their personal, social and emotional development we will be sharing stories about ourselves, reading stories about new experiences, learning class rules and routines, learning about our feelings and learning how to keep ourselves healthy and safe.

Communication and Language: This is one of the prime areas of development in the Early Years curriculum and focuses on listening, speaking and understanding. To encourage development in this area we will be singing nursery rhymes and listening to stories, talking about our class routines, discussing how we use different things in the classroom and using the role play area. We will also focus on listening to and following instructions. We aim for children's listening skills, length that they can concentrate for and the ability to recall events or stories to improve over this term through these activities.

Literacy: Children will hear stories as a class and begin to develop a love of books and storytelling. They will be encouraged to use their story knowledge in their play. Pre-writing skills will be developed through a range of mark making, art and craft and construction activities. In writing, the children will be

encouraged to write their names and to write letters using various different writing and mark making implements. The children will also take part in 'Buddy Reading' where they will choose a book to read with a junior child and may bring books home to share with you. Please make a fuss of their choice and read the book to them to encourage a love for books.

They will begin learning phonics using our Monster Phonics scheme, learning phonemes (s,a,t,p,i,n etc) and graphemes which they will then apply, initially to their reading and then to their writing. As the children begin learning Phase Two phonics, they will bring home a book with the sounds they have learnt at school to practise at home. This will be accompanied by some high frequency words and a reading book, to be read with you. They will also bring home a home/school diary for parents/carers to comment in. Please do this frequently as it is a way to communicate with us about your child. Also, a little often and consistently is an effective way to encourage the children to develop a love of reading. We have a reading reward chart in school and when they have read 10 times at home they receive some sweets. When they reach 100 they receive a book. There is a lot of information about our phonics scheme on the school website - **Key Information – Curriculum - Infant Class - Phonics**

Maths: The children will develop their counting skills and understanding of number names, digits and number order through the use of number songs, number games and daily maths and number activities. The children will also develop their understanding of the 1:1 correspondence of number, meaning that they understand that 1 has a value of 1, 2 has a value of 2 etc and learn to form and write numbers.

Physical Development: The children will develop their ability to execute movements with increasing control and join in with whole class PE sessions.

They will use the outside area to travel in a variety of ways and will use the bikes to further develop their gross motor skills. In class the children will respond to music and create dances and routines. They will use a range of large and small equipment and will also manipulate small objects successfully, which in turn will develop their fine motor control and hand/eye coordination.

Understanding the World: During our first few weeks the children will be encouraged to talk about their home life and the different experiences that they have. We will be talking about families and the different roles members have, what our homes are like and comparing the different kinds of houses. We will

be finding out what the children are interested in and taking our learning forward based on their fascinations.

They will also learn about life in Mexico with Year 1 & 2. During this time we will also discover what animals live there, finding out from books and iPads.

As the seasons change children will investigate what is happening and the differences between seasons, learning about autumn and our weather.

Expressive Arts and Design: The children will be encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings in a range of ways. Every day children will have the opportunity to participate in creative activities, some of which will be linked to our rainforest topic and the weather. They will be able to use their imagination and participate in role-play and other drama activities, as well as experimenting with instruments and singing songs.

Year 1 and 2

Phonics

Year 1 will learn the main ways of spelling 'ai, ee, ie, oa and ue' this term with Year 2 recapping and extending their knowledge of silent letters such as kn, gn, wr and dge.

Key Information – Curriculum - Infant Class – Phonics - Y1 or Y2 Phonics Progression Map

Spellings

Year 1 and 2 spellings are given out on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. The first set will be given on Tuesday 13th September.

Please continue to practise reading and spellings (Y1&2) daily as this is really important support for your child, as confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively.

Literacy

We are going to start by reading lots of stories with familiar settings from our summer holidays such as 'Little Bean's Holiday' and build up to writing our own adventure stories.

We will also be looking at non-fiction books, their features and how they can help to answer questions about our topic, Mexico, using the computers to find out facts and write fact files. Our English activities are frequently linked to our topic.

Please continue to read regularly with your child and sign his/her reading diary; just ten minutes every day really helps to develop fluency and improves writing too. We have a reading reward chart in school and when they have read 10 times at home they receive some sweets. When they reach 100 they receive a book.

Maths

In Numeracy, we will be working on developing fluency understanding of number and place value, comparing and ordering numbers up to 100 and beyond, further developing skills in counting, adding and subtracting using the White Rose Maths scheme and Fluency Bee.

In Measurement and Geometry, we will be busy measuring learning about 2D shapes. In the second half of the term we will be measuring lengths and heights. We will also reinforce our knowledge of the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons.

Geography, History, Art, Design and Technology

Our main topic this term is a Geography focus on Tocuaro, a small village in Mexico which we shall be looking at in contrast to Earl Sterndale. We will be looking at photographs of life in and around Tocuaro, what it is like to live and go to school there, photographs of a Mexican family, different types of food and activities in contrast to life in Earl Sterndale. Later in the term we will be moving to a history topic, The Plague in the village of Eyam. Our art and design activities are also linked to these topics where we will be making masks, using clay and textiles for design.

Science

In Science, we will start by learning about our bodies and the senses. We will also be spending time observing seasonal change as we move into autumn and we shall be planting spring flowering bulbs. During the second half of the term, we will be investigating and testing materials and finding out how suitable materials are for particular uses.

R.E.

We will be learning about what Christians and Muslims believe about God and reflecting on ideas and questions through discussion, music, artwork and role play. We will be preparing for our Harvest Festival and considering the importance of this celebration. We will consider how we care for others and the world through Christian and Islamic stories and we will learn how some people have been inspired to care for others because of their religious beliefs.

PSHE

We follow the Derbyshire 'PSHE Matters' scheme of work and the theme for this term is 'Bullying Matters'. We will be discussing such things as strategies for dealing with conflicts within friendships and the importance of cooperation; identifying kind and unkind behaviour and how behaviour affects people's feelings; what bullying is and the importance of talking to an adult if they have concerns.

Forest School

Forest School will begin again shortly with sessions around Earl Sterndale and a couple of visits to Belinda Woods, a small woodland near Chelmorton, later this term. We will be visiting the Hollowford Centre in Castleton for an outdoor activity day on Tuesday November 7th. We will book a minibus for all off site visits, more information will be sent nearer the time.

P.E.

PE is on Wednesday afternoons and, unless the weather is poor, we always go outside. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school wearing full kit which should include: shorts, joggers, T-shirt, sweatshirt, socks and trainers. It is very helpful if all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Class 2

Maths this term will focus on learning and consolidating the basics – tables and number bonds which will lead into work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be looking at place value, negative numbers and Roman numerals. There will be opportunities for the children to work on mental maths and arithmetic skills and to practise reasoning questions.

In English we will be looking at a range of texts including newspapers, playscripts, diaries, narratives, information texts and discussion texts. The children will study the key elements of each of these text types and then have a chance to write their own texts using the models and scaffolds we provide. We will be working on a range of sentence level work too including nouns and verbs, adjectives and adverbs, speech marks and connectives and conjunctions.

Reading, as always, remains the key to success in all subjects – the more reading you can do with your children the better. We do our best to hear the children read every week but we cannot guarantee one to one reading. Please do all you can to listen to your children read – it doesn't have to be War and Peace – comics, cartoons, the back of the cereal packet! Please try to listen to your children read and then ask questions about what they have read. The children will get to do shared reading with a friend at least once a week as well as group reading and listening to a book read by the teacher.

We are starting a new programme in Reading this term – please keep an eye out for further details in a separate letter.

This term, in Geography we are looking at rivers. This will include looking at the different stages of a river, river landscape features and some famous rivers from around the world. In History, later this term, we will be finding out about the ancient civilisation of Maya.

We will be beginning a new language in Modern Foreign Languages – Italian. Molto bella!

In RE we are looking at Sikhism and Judaism.

Mrs O'Neill will be working on keyboard skills in Music and we will be studying the Medieval period of Music as well as preparing songs and a dance for our Harvest Service.

In Science we will be exploring light.

Our Computing lessons will be focusing on digital skills, touch typing and using Powerpoint and Word to present information.

In PE we will be working on our fitness and flexibility as well as team bat and ball games and orienteering.

Our PSHE topic this term is 'Bullying Matters' where we aim to equip our children with the skills and knowledge they need to address bullying, however it occurs.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to see a member of staff.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Holden, Mrs Plevey, Mrs Gill and Ms Clayton