



EARL STERNDALE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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In School This Term – Autumn 2024

Dear Parents,

Please find below an outline of the topics and activities your children will be learning about and taking part in this term.

Class 1

EYFS – Incredible 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 daily 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, construction activities and Drawing Club. 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 2 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. 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. They will also be exploring shapes in class and outside and using mathematical language to describe them.

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.

There will also be opportunities to learn some things about life in the rainforest with Years 1 & 2, as this will be their focus. 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 Incredible Me. They be able to use their imagination and participate in role play in

our jungle cafe and other drama activities, as well as experimenting with instruments and singing songs.

Years 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.

Please see our information on the website:

Key Information > Curriculum > Infant Class > Phonics > Y1 or 2 Progression Map

Reading

Children listen to stories daily in class and all children will be heard read at least twice a week in school. Please continue to practise reading daily as this is really important in helping us to help your child, reading is the window to the world!

Whilst listening to your child read, ask questions to check their comprehension and encourage the use of punctuation to aid their expression as they read.

Please write in your child's reading record when you have listened to them read and let us know if you have finished the book.

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 10th September.

Please continue to practise 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.

English

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 on the rainforest, using the computers to find out facts and make mini books about rainforest animals. Our literacy activities are frequently linked to our topic work. Links will also be made to our Science topic of 'Weather' and the children will be reading and writing poetry and instructions.

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 Geometry we will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Geography, History, Art Design and Technology

Our main activities this term will focus on Geography, Brazil and the rainforests. We will be looking at where the Amazon is, photographs of life in the rainforest particularly focusing on the animals who live there. Later in the term our History topic will move on to famous people. Our Art and Design activities are also linked to these topics where we will be mastering the technique of collage and taking inspiration from Henri Rousseau and making snappy crocs and jointed sloths. In Computing we will be looking at technology around us.

PSHE

Our themes this term will be Drug Education (role of medicines, safety and what to do when someone is ill) and Exploring Emotions (describing, recognising different feelings and managing big feelings).

Science

We will be finding out about the seasons and the weather with a focus on the changes that can be observed in Autumn. Our lessons will include learning simple measuring and recording techniques and hopefully plenty of opportunities to work outdoors.

R.E.

The overarching theme this term is 'Believing' and the children will learn about the beliefs of Christians and Jews which will include learning about the sacred texts of each religion. We will also prepare for our Harvest and Christmas celebrations and learn about the significance of these festivals in the Christian year.

Forest School

Forest School will begin again shortly with sessions around Earl Sterndale and a couple of visits to Belinda Woods near Chelmorton. We hope to visit the Hollowford Centre in Castleton for an outdoor day in November. We will book a minibus for all off site visits, more information will be sent nearer the time.

P.E.

P.E. is on Wednesday afternoons and, unless the weather is poor, we always go outside. Please can you ensure that your child has a full P.E. kit which should include: shorts, joggers, T-shirt, sweatshirt and a pair of socks (if your child is likely to be wearing tights). It is very helpful if all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This term we focus on basic ball skills, following instructions, control and coordination.

Music

We will be exploring pulse and rhythm, accompanying simple songs and listening and moving to a range of music.

Class 2

This term's Maths will focus mainly on the basics of Maths – place value and the fundamentals of Arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) as well as rounding up and down and Roman numerals.

In English, we will be looking at a range of texts including narrative, diary / journal, playscript and information 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 adjectives, adverbs, active and passive sentences and speech marks.

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.

Geography's topic will be about settlements – how settlements were first developed and what different types of settlements exist.

Our Modern Foreign Language will be French.

In R.E, we will be studying the Art of Religion.

Mrs O'Neill will continue to work on keyboard skills in Music and we will be studying the Classical period of Music.

In Computing, we will be creating Vector drawings and 3D modelling to becoming graphic designers, followed by Systems and Searching, Communication and Collaboration.

Science and Design & Technology (STEM) - Materials and states of matter, making bread followed by Sound and making instruments.

In P.E, we will be playing striking and fielding games followed by dance and gymnastics.

Our Outdoor Education this term will be team building and using our local environment.

Our PSHE topic this term is 'Drug Education' including tobacco and vaping, alcohol and illegal drugs. This can be quite a challenging topic and may lead to some interesting discussions at home. If you have any concerns or queries, please pop in and we will be happy to share the content of the topic.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or queries about any of the work we are doing in school, please do not hesitate to see a member of staff.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

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