Topic overview for Reception

Topic Title: Up Above and Down Below

Our topic explores the world above us, below us and all around us through language, religions, travel, festivals, food and caring for our world. We will explore language, religions, travel, festivals, food and care for our world.

We will talk about special events and celebrations that are important to the children and their families, including Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Communication, Language and Literacy

In phonics, the children will continue to learn phonic sounds and apply them in their reading and writing. Please practise these sounds at home. The children will be learning to blend two and three sounds together to make words such as 'am' and 'sat.'

We are supporting the children to develop their early writing skills by strengthening both their fine and gross motor skills through a range of fun, practical activities. These help to build the strength, control and coordination needed for writing. From the very beginning, we are encouraging correct letter formation, focusing on lowercase letters first, so that children develop good habits and confidence as they begin their writing journey. We practise making marks, patterns and letter shapes, helping the children to develop control and understand how letters are formed.

Maths

In maths, we are focusing on recognising numbers, counting carefully, recognising small amounts without counting (subitising) and beginning to understand how numbers can be made up in different ways. We will use lots of practical activities, games, songs and everyday opportunities to help the children build confidence with numbers. Alongside this, we will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes, making and continuing patterns, and comparing objects by size, length and height. Our aim is to make maths fun, hands-on and meaningful.

Reading

Sharing stories together at home is one of the most important ways you can support your child's learning. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading together helps to develop language, build vocabulary, improve listening skills and spark imagination. Talk about the pictures, ask questions and encourage your child to join in with familiar words and phrases. In school, we will be enjoying a range of exciting stories, including Binny's Diwali, Mae in Space, Whatever Next!, The Gingerbread Man and the Christmas story, alongside lots of festive favourites. Most importantly, make reading a special time to enjoy together!

Independence

We are encouraging the children to become more independent with their everyday routines and personal belongings. Please ensure your child brings their book bag and water bottle to school every day. As the weather gets colder, they will also need a warm hat and gloves. We are encouraging the children to put on and take off their own coats and to begin practising putting on and taking off their gloves independently. These little everyday tasks help to build confidence, self-help skills and independence. Please practise at home too – a little practice goes a long way!