

Our Foundation Stage team consistently strive to make everyday a special learning experience for all children. We achieve this by developing strong, positive relationships with every child and their family. Our staff are committed to providing children with the highest quality teaching and learning experiences through a broad and varied play based curriculum, which takes account of children's current interests and preferred learning style. We effectively use the EYFS to plan rich and meaningful experiences both indoors and outdoors, and most importantly we always have fun!

# Foundation Stage Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2017

#### Summer Term

This term we would like to welcome Miss Farrell to our Nursery working very closely with Mrs Guy and Mrs Duke. We would also like to welcome Mrs Harris as 2 year old room leader who will be working Home Activities: with Miss Spellman. Miss Leyland will now be working with Miss Cox's Reception class. We have had a great start to the term and hope you all enjoyed your Easter break. We came back to school with a visit from a friendly dragon in Reception. The dragon visited our school and wanted to be our friends. Nursery also had some visits from the Fire Fighters and the Community Support Officers. Visit our Early Years Summer page for more information and pictures.









- © Read daily with your child, encouraging him/her to talk about what they liked and who their favourite character was and why?
- Talk to the children about shapes they see in the natural environment. Ask them how many sides the shapes have.
- Ask your child what they have been doing in school and encourage discussions.
- Encourage your child to stay for a healthy hot dinner, which is free for all infants.

#### What's inside...

# Reading

Thank you for helping your children read at home we are really seeing good progress in the children's reading and are moving onto Guided reading sessions. Here we will read in small groups taking it in turns to read an ask lots of guestions to make sure the children are understanding the

text. Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves a teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate simlar reading behaviours and can all read similar levels of texts. The small group model allows children to be taught in a way that is intended to be more focused on their specific needs, accelerating their progress.

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#### Forest Schools

This term we have been lucky enough to be approached by The Wildlife Trust and Forest Schools Association to train 3 members of staff funded by a donation from the People's Postcode Lottery. It is an approach to education that makes use of the outdoor environment to create a unique learning tool. Forest School sessions provide increasingly diverse opportunities for children to benefit from a supportive curriculum that can help children build positive values and attitudes about themselves, about learning, and the environment in which they live.



Lancashire, Manchester & N Merseyside

# Topics This Term



In Reception class this term we are following the children's interest in dragons and castles. We began our topic by reading books about dragons such as 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson and 'Tell me a Dragon' by Chris Wormell. They loved listening to the descriptions of the dragons in the book and thoroughly enjoyed using their imagination to write about their own dragon as well as using a variety of collage materials to create their own pet dragon.

The children in Reception was so excited when we found a newspaper article telling us about a possible dragon sighting in the Everton area. We then discovered dragon footprints, dragon scales in our outdoor area which inspired the children to write letters to the teachers across the school informing them of their discovery.

These experiences were intended as a precursor to writing their dragon stories - after all, how can you write a story with a heroine entering a dragon's cave if you have never found a dragon? First hand experiences help to build the imagination with possibilities. Dragon Sighted! We announced that a dragon has been sighted in the area. We read a local newspaper headline and we checked the School camera's to see if we could see the dragon. We'll let the children tell you the rest!



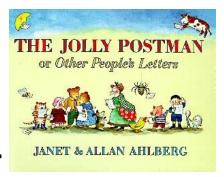
In Nursery we have based our learning on children's current interest in Paw Patrol. We invited local Fire fighters in to school to teach us all about Marshall's important job and we got to play on the fire engine as well as using the hose! We also called the Police to help us find out who took our pups from Nursery. We learnt how Police Officers check for clues on CCTV as well as looking for finger prints near to where they were taken. We discovered that the culprit is the infamous Grandma Swag from the story we have been learning about 'Cops and Robbers' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. During our Key Person group time we talked about what we could

do next now that we know who the thief is. Children decided that we should be detectives, searching for clues and that we could make a trap for her. Please help

your child to choose a new story each morning to take home and share as well as encouraging them to find their name and mark make/write it.

#### Come and See

As part of Come and See RE Topics this term we will be covering Pentecost. For Christians, the Gospel is the Good News of God's love for everyone. At Pentecost, in the gift of the Holy Spirit given for all, Christ's mission of bringing the Good News was entrusted to the community of believers which is the Church. We started our topic by reading The Jolly Postman by Janet Ahlberg, Allan Ahlberg. In this topic Children will be able to talk about how they feel when they have good news to share, and children will be able to say what they wonder about the joy good news brings. Good News is that Jesus has



risen from the dead **and** that the Holy Spirit is with us always. It is difficult at this age for children to understand the abstract concept of the Holy Spirit. We use images such as air, wind and fire to help us explain the power of the Holy Spirit. The effects of these elements are what we want the children to explore and thereby deepen their understanding.

#### **Phonics**



In Nursery we have been playing listening games, identifying environmental and instrumental sounds. Some of us have been playing games to hear and say the initial sound in words and we have been clapping the syllabus within our name. Games to support your child at home include 'I Spy' and interactive games on the Jolly Phonics website. Children love to learn the sounds they need to read and write through these songs and actions. They are free to use on You Tube!

In Reception the children are continuing to enjoy their daily phonic sessions. This term we are continuing to recap hearing, saying and writing the phase 2 and 3 sounds. The children will continue to write for a variety of purposes such as lists, instructions and letters. Encourage your children to write independently at home sounding out each word. Please ask you child's class teacher for another copy of the first 100 high frequency words for your child to continue practising reading and writing them at home.



### Maths

In Nursery we will continue to identify numerals 0-12 as well as matching the quantity correctly to the number during number hunts, number games and when counting during play. Children will also continue to find shapes in the environment and talk about what real objects they look like as well as identifying key characteristics of each shape. When we are being detectives we will be using positional language as we search for clues to find our missing pups.

In Reception the children will be continuing to add and subtract two single digit numbers together, practising doubling and halving numerals to 10 as well as practising counting with 1:1 correspondence to 20 and beyond. We will begin to identify coins up to £1 and begin to understand the value of each coin. We will continue practising naming 2d and 3d shapes and talking about the properties.

# Dates for your Diary

Stay and Play: Wednesday 17th May 2017

Miss Cox's Class and Morning Nursery: 9:00am-10:00am

Mrs Roberts/ Mrs Bowcock's Class and PM Nursery: 2:15pm-3:15pm

#### **Ankoma**

As you are aware the children have been raising funds for the Ankoma School in Ghana, Africa. During Lent, each class chose an activity which contributed to the grand total of £1,823.77.

Some children did sponsored events, others held a raffle, others washed cars, whatever activity they did it was lovely to see all the children working together to support another school who, as I am sure you are aware, operate in very difficult circumstances.

Over the next few weeks the school council will be meeting with classes to decide how this money will be spent and how it can support the education and healthcare of the children of Ankoma School. I would like to thank all our families for helping us raise this money and for supporting us in raising the children's awareness of the lives of our friends in Ghana. We will keep you informed of the decisions of the children and will use our APP and our Website to post pictures and articles about this venture.

# Photo Gallery













# Internet Safety

We are very lucky to have Mr Moffatt teach both Nursery and Reception class about Internet Safety and how to use a programmes on the ICT equipment. Last week he taught us how to take photos and add them onto pic collage to create a document with words and pictures. Mr Moffatt is an Educational Consultant with MGL Solutions, a partner of our school.

# Outdoor Play

During the Summer months we ask that parents put suncream on their child every morning before school as well as bringing a hat or cap with their name inside to protect them from the sun during outdoor play. We do have suncream in school which we will provide children with to apply to themselves. If however your child has an allergy to this or you would prefer them not to, please inform your child's class teacher.



"If you want your child to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales" (Albert Einstein).



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