

Oak Class Information Sheet Spring 2018



Class Teacher: Miss Warren

Teaching Assistants: Mrs McCullough (am) Miss Grylls (pm)

Welcome back! I hope you have all had some lovely family time over the Christmas holiday and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. The Spring term is a short term and we have lots of exciting activities to fill it with!

Topic / Understanding the world

This term our topic is 'Africa', we will be learning about the culture, environment and animals in Africa and comparing Kenya and Newton Abbot. We will also be comparing our school with schools in Africa. You can help your child become an outside explorer by visiting local places and discussing the environment and climate.

Personal, Social and Health Education

Our focus this term is Healthy Eating and how to stay healthy. We will be sorting healthy and unhealthy food, learning about food groups and creating our own healthy meals. The children will be learning about why exercise is important and how to look after themselves. We will also be developing our growth mindset and developing their stamina and resilience towards their work when they are faced with challenges.

Communication and Language

Our focus is on developing listening and attention skills and responding to others with relevant comments using past, present and future tenses correctly. For example, if your child said 'I goed to school' model how we say it and explain that we use 'went' because it has already happened and is in the past. It is important to correct and model good use of language as children can develop bad habits. The children will also be following instructions with several parts and answering how and why questions in detail. You can help your child at home by encouraging children to give a detailed answer in sentences and modelling this to them.

Physical Development

To develop the skills needed for writing we use a program called Write Dance that incorporates music and dance. It is an approach and a method that provides movement opportunities so children can develop the physical skills needed to develop their handwriting skills. The movement is driven by the music and the underlying principle is enjoyment to build confidence. We will use funky fingers to develop their hand strength and fine motor skills. We practice pre-cursive letter formations every day with a sweep in and of the letters, ensuring that children are holding their pencils with a tripod grip. When writing with your child at home, please remind your child to hold their pencil correctly and they are starting and finishing their letter formations with a sweep in and out. I have included examples of cursive letter formations and a good pencil grip. The children have also been given a cursive formation workbook to do as homework this term.

Mathematics

This term we will be continuing with counting and our understanding of numbers. We will be adding and subtracting practically and learn how to use a number line to count on and count back. Children will be encouraged to start recording their work using symbols (+ and - symbols to be introduced). We will be looking at 3d shapes, money, comparing weights and measuring time.

It is important that your child can say the numbers in order to 20 and then beyond. Please encourage your child to count objects - can they count how many chairs are around the table – what would one more be – can they record this number? Can they add two piles of objects by grouping them together and then counting them all and write down the answer? Can they recognise numbers that they see in shops and on doors? Can they subtract one digit numbers and record the answer? Can they compare the height, weight, length, capacity of everyday objects?

Religious Education

This term in RE we will look at Christmas, Revelation, Lent and Holy Week. We will also have our Daily Act of Worship.

Literacy

The children are taught phonics through a program called Read, Write Inc. We learn new sounds daily and apply this to reading and writing words with that sound. We also learn tricky words – words which we can not sound out. We teach writing through 'Talk for writing' which enables children to imitate the key language they need for a particular type of story orally before they try reading and writing it. Through fun activities that help them rehearse the language they need, followed by shared writing to show them how to develop their writing, children are helped to write in the same style. We will start this term with Handa's Surprise. You can help your child at home with writing by encouraging them to sound out and write simple sentences at home, once they have written their words ask them to read it to you and check that they have used finger spaces between their words.

It is important to read with your child at home on a regular basis and use the reading record books as they are a brilliant way to keep in touch about your child's reading and to communicate any problems that may arise. Books will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please read lots of different stories to your child at home as it is a good for developing language and imagination skills. Joining the library can be a great way to encourage a love of story. Ask them questions about what is happening in the story. Can they guess what might happen next? Can they re-tell the story to you? Can they tell you who the characters in the story are? Whilst out and about please look for words in the environment - can they read signs, notices and logos?

Expressive Art and Design

This term we will be creating African silhouette paintings, making a traditional village hut and papier mache puppets. We will be thinking about what colours to use and how to mix colours. We will be drawing representations of animals and objects and thinking how size and how we add detail to our drawings.

Storytime

We would like to invite you into class on Friday afternoons for storytime sessions from 3:00-3:30pm this term. We wish to develop a love for reading in our children and this can be done through different reading activities. The dates for this will be sent out separately.

PE

Our PE days are on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. PE is taught by Mr Gillard, this term they will be doing gymnastics and developing their multi skills (ball skills, team skills, movement skills etc).

Learning at home

As the first educator of your child, there are many ways that you can support your child's learning. Encouraging them to talk when you are taking part in activities together will really develop their language. You don't have to be going on expensive trips; this talk can happen on the way to school or the shops.

Lunch

As part of the universal school meals programme children are provided with free school meals for Reception, Year One and Year Two. You can order school dinners online, registration forms are available from the school office. Alternatively you can select their lunch in class in the morning. The new deli bar is opening where children can choose from a jacket potato or wrap and fill it from a choice of ingredients.

Uniform and PE kits

Please ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled – I am sure you can imagine the difficulties we face when the whole class gets changed for PE at the same time! Please can you also provide a change of clothing in case your child has an accident – we do have spare clothing, however it is more comforting for them to wear their own clothes.

Tapestry and Wow work

I have set up a new 'WOW' display board in the classroom and it would be great if you can record any 'WOW' moments which we will share at circle time and then display on the board. The WOW slips are on the shelf below the display board. You can also upload any WOW moments or observations on Tapestry.

Appointments

I am always available to see parents briefly before school. If there is something that may take a little longer then please don't hesitate to make an appointment for after school. Parents meetings will be held on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th of February and you can book these appointments online on eSchools.

Pre-Cursive Handwriting Guide for Parents and Carers

At St Joseph's Primary School we encourage children to take pride and care in the presentation of their writing. From the beginning of Reception we provide opportunities for children to develop the skills to enable them to produce work that is presented well.

We provide experiences for children to...

- develop upper arm strength through physical activity
- develop hand and finger control through hands-on practical activities such as play-dough and using tweezers
- develop spatial awareness
- learn about good presentation through modelling handwriting and looking at different texts
- learn about the formation of letters
- develop a joined handwriting style

Developing Motor Skills

Developing children's fine and gross motor skills helps develop their writing skills. You can practice these Try some activities at home such as...

- kneading dough
- painting
- threading
- picking up small individual items
- large drawing
- small drawing
- using chopsticks
- using tweezers
- manipulating play dough

Pencil Control

- Handwriting practice should be done using pencils and paper. This develops a child's pressure and strength that felt-tips do not.
- Any form of pencil control eg dot to dot, colouring etc is good practice.
- Formation on electronic devices such as tablets is good but children should also practice on paper.
- Children must hold their pencil correctly, their thumb should not cover their fingers, as this restricts the movement.

Good Handwriting

- Children should sit up straight with their feet flat on the floor.
- Writing should be done on a firm surface like a table.
- Paper should be slanted slightly to the left for right-handed children and to the right for left-handed children.
- Capital letters do not join up to other letters.
- Letters that have a tail (descenders) go under the line and tall letters (ascenders) should be much taller. We use handwriting lines so that children are able to see where their letters should go:

Ascenders are tall

Descenders go below the line

a c e h t l p g y

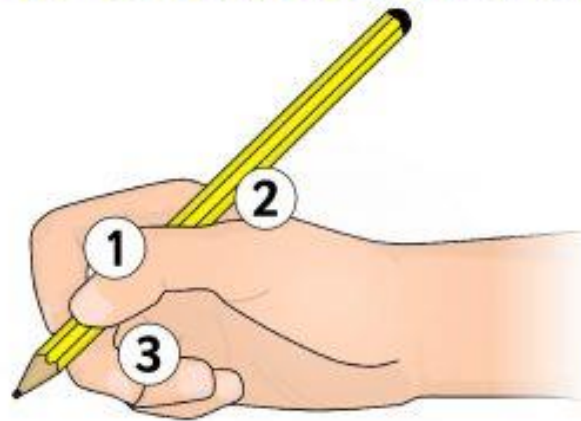
Pre-Cursive Handwriting

Pre-Cursive handwriting means that each individual letter is formed with a sweep in and out. This is an example of pre-cursive handwriting:

At St Joseph's School Oak
Class use pre cursive letters

This will lead to cursive writing in KS1 when the children will be encouraged to join their letters.

How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

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