



Discovery's Topic Letter Spring Term 1 2022



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."— Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. We hope that you have had a lovely, relaxing Christmas holiday. Thank you so much for the gifts that you sent into school - they were VERY appreciated! We are sure that all of the children are ready for another exciting half term of fun and learning together.

As we start our Spring Term, we are focussing on our whole school SUMO theme of: Being a Kind Friend. We will look at how we need to see things from our friend's perspective using the Beach Ball technique using the story of 'We're Going on A Bear Hunt.'

From the start of next week in school, our topic will be 'Toy Story.' This is a fun and very exciting theme we are sure that our children will thoroughly enjoy and engage in all aspects of learning inside and outside the classroom. Each week we will follow a focus to our topic and these are:

Week 2 -Buzz Lightyear / Space

Week 3 -Space

Week 4-Rex

Week 5-Rex/Chinese New Year

Week 6-Old Toys/ Multicultural Week / Safer Internet Day

As always the weeks and the themes may change, nothing is set in stone. The topic lends itself to lots of science through finding out about space and the moon, forces and pushes and pulls, volcanoes and the environment and also the weather - watch out for any budding weather forecasters!

The curriculum will be delivered through play-based learning and hands-on experiences, spread across the 7 areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

Personal, social and emotional - Now that the children are starting to feel more settled in the school environment, we will be encouraging lots of sharing and turn taking. We will be aiming to develop confidence where the

children will be talking in groups, listening to what others say and trying to understand how others may feel. We will be thinking about mindfulness and Calm and trying new activities, some work for some and not others. We encourage the children to think that the activities are like trying on new shoes. Some will fit you and some won't, some might fit later and some may never quite work at all. No worries - they are all activities that we can all explore, adjust, repeat or put away for later!

Our focussed circle times will be on how we can keep safe. This focusses on keeping ourselves safe inside and outside; how to keep safe online; how to keep our bodies safe on the inside and outside; what to do if we feel unsafe and how to recognise people who can help us.

Communication and language - We will be using our weekly stories as a focus for language. Activities will be based around the retelling of the stories and we will encourage children to incorporate this story language into their imaginative play. During focussed carpet time, children will be taught to describe and answer questions about the story.

It would be useful if you could encourage speech by questioning your child about the week's story and allowing them to retell it to you (or any other little ones in your house!). All of this will help your child develop into a confident communicator.

Physical development - Whilst the children are beginning to write, it is important to develop their fine motor skills. Activities such as playdough and collage making strengthen fingers and wrists and encourage pencil grip. We will continue to have a PE focused lesson in the hall on a Wednesday. We will continue to encourage our children to take their learning outdoors-the children are encouraged to go outside at all given opportunities and this is where they can practice their gross motor skills advancing their climbing, balancing and jumping.

Literacy - Our daily phonics sessions will continue. The children are making excellent progress - we are starting to look at Phase 3 and continuing to consolidate Phase 2. All children are at different stages, it is vital that children remember the sounds that they have learnt so far - please can you continue to practice phonemes sent home last term. Once familiar, children will recognise sounds in words and either blend or segment them for reading or writing (for example c-a-t).

www.phonicsplay.co.uk is a useful website with a variety of free phonic games if your child would like to do more.

We will continue to listen to your child read in small groups and/or individually. As the quote at the beginning states : the more you read the more you learn - it is really, really important that you read to your child and that they read or tell stories back.



Writing:

In school we are encouraging children to write for different purposes labelling rockets and characters from the stories, writing postcards home from the moon, lists and story maps. We are encouraging children to begin to write in full sentences using capital letters and full stops and remembering to use 'finger spaces', the children will show you the actions if you ask. We will be planning lots of activities that involve independent writing and so a little practise at home would be useful. E.G you could sound out words for your child and they find the correct letters from an alphabet strip to write down. Also practising the tricky words with your child is a great help to their reading and writing. If your child still can not write their name then this is the main focus for now - practise makes perfect.

Mathematics - Children will continue with their understanding of number within 10. They will be looking at how numbers are composed and how they compare. We will focus on one more/ one less. This half term also sees us exploring shapes with four-sides, comparing mass and comparing capacity. As always, the introduction of new vocabulary will be key and we will continue to encourage our children to develop their reasoning.

Understanding the world - Toy story theme and activities are great for our exploration of the outside world. We will consider the seasons and how we spot changes in the outdoor environment; we will make a weather station and encourage the children to explore changes in the weather. There will be lots of exciting activities such as thinking about space, making volcanoes, a dinosaur dig and much, much more. We will learn about the celebration of the Chinese New Year. In our RE, we focus on the stories Jesus told.

Expressive art and design -We have some very creative children this year and we will continue to encourage their skills and imagination through the use of different media. In our music, we will continue to learn varied nursery rhymes - focussing on being able to keep the beat!

Reading:

This term we will really be getting to grips with phonics; reading and then applying for writing. In phonics, the children are learning digraphs, which is combining 2 letters together to make one sound such as ng in long, ay in day and ow in cow. You can follow the order of the digraphs by typing letters and sounds into Google and clicking on phase 3.

It is so important that you encourage your children to read at home - little and often is best. Please continue to read the home reading book with your child as these are phonic based they support learning in school and make sure your child brings the book into school every day. Additional to this, please continue to support your child with reading a book banded (coloured) story. You can also read stories that are from the library, or that have been given as a present. Encourage your child to talk about the story and ask them to explain what is happening to develop their comprehension and fluency.

How you can help at Home

- Reading-try to read every night at home.
- Writing- encourage your child to enjoy writing. Choose a picture about something they like and then encourage them to write a sentence or two about that picture.
- Maths- number recognition within 10, think about 1 more or 1 less. Count when walking up stairs, how many buttons on a cardigan?
- A gentle reminder, it's really important that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather and that all clothing/wellies are clearly named.

Keep the learning practical and fun and then children will want to learn more.

Don't forget to keep your child's toast money topped up! If you need anything you know where we are - Just pop us a Dojo message!

PLEA : If you have any old Toy Story Toys which are no longer played with / OLD toys from your childhood - Please can we beg, steal and borrow them!

Thank you for your continued support.
Team Discovery ☺



