February 2020

I think you would agree that the children did a fantastic job in their Chinese New Year assembly last term. They have built so much confidence in speaking to an audience than in their nativity only a month before! We also had much fun learning about the jungle animals and produced some lovely artwork. There has been some fantastic writing by the children this term and I cannot wait to share some of it with you at parents' evening this term.

**This term’s topic is**

‘What’s Your Emergency?’

This is an action-packed topic full of real life heroes who help us! We will be talking about the different jobs and roles of the emergency services. We are lucky that some volunteers have agreed to come in to share information about the job they play in a variety of different emergency service roles. We have a nurse, dental nurse and the local community police scheduled in, but if you have connections to other services and are able to pop in please contact Miss Sharp.

We will be holding a police day where the children will need to act as police constables and have a go at solving crimes. We will learn some basic first aid and be able to name the different parts of the body. We will see the outside caravan transform into a fire station with role play fires to fight.

Additionally to this we will be drawing the children’s attention to seasonal changes as Spring arrives. It is a wonderful time for them to notice bulbs growing, spring time flowers, the leaves appearing on the trees, spring blossom and the days getting longer. We will also be learning about the Easter story in preparation for our Easter Church Service.

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**Stars & Half Termly Achievers**

Each Friday afternoon we celebrate our FSU stars of the week. Congratulations to last terms stars; Carter, Jasmine, Sienna, Taye, Tom S, and Thomas Q.

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**Home Learning Checklist**

- Daily, Read at home and tricky words
- Weekly, Phonics workbook
- Termly, Home learning grid

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**Mid-Morning Snacks**

Please note that mid-morning snack should be a piece of fruit or vegetable. If you are bringing grapes or cherry tomatoes please can you ensure they are cut in half, or quarters to avoid choking incidents. We can provide healthy snacks through the schools fruit scheme.

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**Further Communication**

Keep an eye on our Communication board for messages from school and the HSA for reception and nursery. We also update our website weekly and the school office will email you newsletters, letters and other communications. Any queries please find a member of staff.
Here is an overview of what we will cover in the curriculum this term.

This term we are learning about the emergency services and how they keep us safe. Their role and responsibility and what we can do to keep ourselves safe from harm and danger. We will also study spring and season changes, before learning about Easter and the Christian celebration.

Literacy:
To compliment this topic we have a selection of fiction and nonfiction texts to initiate discussion, language and written tasks. We will use focus texts such as Burglar Bill and Cops and Robbers both written by Allan Ahlberg. The children will start to apply their known phonics to blend sounds for reading. As children practice this skill they will build up fluency and accuracy in reading. Reception children will be encouraged to start to apply their knowledge to write captions and sentences that can be read by themselves and others.

We will continue to teach new letter sounds alongside revising existing sounds and introducing alternative sounds. While nursery children will practice developing their skills of listening and identifying sounds, and exploring rhymes.

Mathematics:
In Maths we will be counting, matching and recognising numbers to ten, and beyond. We will look at addition and subtraction number sentences and learn the associated vocabulary. Some children are now ready to start to apply their maths knowledge into problem solving activities. The children will learn number songs and rhymes to sing in school and at home. Some children will learn how to record maths using marks they can identify and explain.

Expressive Arts and Design
The children explore a variety of construction materials and begin to use tools for a purpose. They will be encouraged to work collaboratively to help to build class emergency service vehicles to be used in role play. We will explore how different media can be combined to create new effects and how colours can be mixed to make new colours, and create Easter art work.

Physical Development
In PE children will be developing their fundamental movement skills through games and activities delivered by our sports coach Mr Deverall. This term they will be working on developing gymnastic routines and movements. The children will be using tools and equipment with precision and control. They should by now be able to write using correct letter and number formations.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
This term we see our first school ‘Relationships Week’ event take place. We have some special visitors coming in from the NSPCC and from a local charity DASH to talk to the children. We actively encourage and support all children to make positive relationships with peers and staff alike. Look out for more information on this.

Religious Education
This term we explore Easter; the reincarnation of Jesus. We will talk about how we celebrate Easter in our families and why it is important to Christians.

Understanding the World
Children will explore signs of Spring. They will learn about others people’s occupations and ways for life through our topic work. We will also be involved in a whole school STEM day where we will look at forces, learn about scientists and build some bridges for a STEM project.

Technology
Children will use cameras to take photos and record themselves in emergency service role play activities. They will use microphones to record their voices and learn how to play recordings back. Children will learn how to use applications on iPads to play phonics games. They will work the laptops to learn how to log in and use 2Simple software to create pictures with the trackpad. The children have access to our technology trolley and can use a variety of electronic beebots robots, electronic metal detectors, music and listening equipment.