

Understanding the World (History, Geography, Science)

In geography we will be looking at simple map work, making maps of the classroom, school and village, exploring what landmarks help us identify where we are. We will use our maps to go on a treasure hunt around the village. We will link the landmarks to the local history of Spaxton.

In science we will be looking at seasons, why we have seasons and why we have day and night. We will link this to where planet Earth is in space and how the positioning of the sun and moon impacts on our weather and the length of day light hours.

Expressive Arts (Art and Music)

In art we will be working on observational drawing skills. We will complete collage self-portraits for our 'All About Me' wall. We will then be discovering mini beasts that live within our environment looking at them in detail and completing observational drawings of these.

Literacy, Communication and Language (English)

In literacy we will be looking at two books this half term. 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' by Carol McCloud and 'Errol's Garden' by Gillian Hibbs. These books will allow us to explore our own feelings and the feelings of others looking at how our actions can impact others. We will also look at how community is important and how working together can be a powerful thing.

With the year 1 and year 2 children I will be beginning to embed what good writing and presentation looks like ensuring that they have pride in their writing and the want to celebrate their writing achievements.

We will complement this with daily handwriting practice.

STARLING CLASS OVERVIEW- Autumn 1



Welcome to our new academic year. I am happy to be welcoming our new starters and their families to Starling Class. Poppy in Year R, Oliver in Year 1 and Samuel in Year 2. I really do hope that you have had a lovely summer enjoying quality family time together and the weather was kind to us all too!

I have been busy planning our learning for the forthcoming year and excited to share this learning with the children and hopefully their enthusiasm around our topics. Our first topic is 'Where We Live' looking at the importance of community and exploring our school and village setting and location.

If you have any questions then please do catch me or Miss Holden at the gate or via Dojo.

Mrs Ball and Miss Holden. 😊

Maths

We are starting a new maths programme this year. The NCETM programme is designed to give the children the opportunity to really embed the core skills and deep understanding of number which will assist them as they progress into Key Stage 2. Alongside this we will be following a 15 minutes Mastering Number session to practice previous learning ensuring past knowledge is not forgotten allowing them to make links within their maths learning. Reception children will be following our Mastering Number programme which has proven to be very successful in our past Reception years.

Reading and Phonics

We will continue to read with your children three times a week during 'Reading Practice' sessions in school.

Please do read with your child at home and aim for at least 3 times a week to help with fluency. It is proven that children who read at home regularly are more successful in their reading and writing as they develop through their education.

Little Wandle Phonics will happen daily for Years R and 1 where they will be busy learning new graphemes and digraphs. We will send these home for practice as we learn them.

Year 2 children will be embarking on a new 'Bridge to Spelling' programme through Little Wandle phonics. This will assist with spelling rules to help them choose the correct grapheme and digraphs in their writing.

Explorer Time

Explorer Time is built into the day for both Reception and KS1 children. Explorer time is a type of provision where learning takes place within play through either child-initiated or adult-led activities. Within Explorer Time we can play alongside the children while discovering their interests and challenge their thinking. This evidence base approach to learning shows that this is the most effective way for our youngest learners to achieve the ambition set by schools while also giving them the opportunity for brain breaks between lessons. I am a great believer in children who have some control over their learning means happy and willing children to learn.

Alongside this play based provision the children benefit from engaging in social interactions which support their development of Personal, Social and Emotional skills as well as their mental wellbeing.

PE

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon with the sports coach Mr Lee. Please could you send your child to school with a named PE bag and kit as we will be changing in school for PE this year.