

Welcome to the second half of Spring term. I cannot believe that we are half way through the academic year! I just wanted to say thank you very much for your support with your child’s learning so far. I have spent time looking through the children’s books and their progress in all areas is so evident. Makes me very proud of their hard work and their positive attitude to learning.

We have a jam packed half term ahead which hopefully we will be able to get outside more with the weather improving. I have developed a little vegetable patch in the garden which hopefully we will be able to grow and eat our rewards in the Summer and Autumn term.

If you have any questions during the term please speak to myself or one of the adults within Starlings.

Mrs Ball, Miss Holden, Miss Jenkins and Mrs Standing.

**Literacy, Communication and Language (English)**

In literacy we will be looking at the job of a postman linked to the story ‘The Jolly Postman and Other Peoples Letters’ exploring letter and post card writing to Fairy-tale characters. This will lead to us learning to recite, and innovate our own story of Cinderella.

YR children will be embedding their Phase 2 and 3 phonics through reading and writing meaningful sentences linked to what we have read in class. .

We will continue with daily phonics where KS1 children will continue to learn the Phase 5 sounds and spelling rules.

**Maths**

Pupils will continue to develop their subitising and counting skills. They will begin to identify when two sets are equal or unequal and connect two equal groups to doubles. Year 1 children we will be focusing on place value within 50, length and height and mass and valume.

Year 2 children will be focusing on addition and subtraction with 100, length and height and mass, capacity and temperature.

**Explorer Time**

“What is Explorer time?” This is built into the day for both Reception and KS1 children. Explorer time is a type provision where learning takes place through play. The evidence base approach to learning shows that this is the most effective way for our youngest learners to achieve the ambition set by schools.

There are two types of provision: continuous and enhanced.

Continuous is what happens when children are learning through play (sand and water trays, small world figures, mark-making).

Enhanced is where staff place challenges in the provision linked to the topic.

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 metal wellbeing.

**PE**

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon with the sports coach and outdoor learning on a Monday afternoon.

**PSED (PSHE)**

We will be focusing being good friends and excepting people’s differences. We will be celebrating how everyone is unique.

**Expressive Arts (Art and Music)**

This half term we will be looking at using mixed media techniques to create a collage. We will explore the different materials we could use, grouping colours and textures. We will be researching the artists Reginald Mills and Henrietta Rae who painted people within their jobs.