

Understanding the World (History, Geography, Science)

In geography we will be looking at why we have maps and how to use them. We will be developing our own maps to following around the school and the village. We will be exploring the differences of a village, town and city and what country we live in within the UK.

In science we will be identifying the season we are in now and the changes that happen to the natural environment in Autumn. We will also be looking at the different animal types including humans, what we need to survive and how to stay healthy.

Expressive Arts (Art and Music)

In art we will be exploring the different tools we can use for art, both intentional and through using our natural environment. We will use these to help to create different textures and encourage purposeful mark making for our reception children.

Literacy, Communication and Language (English)

In literacy we will be looking at two books this half term

'Super Milly and the Super School Day'

by Stephanie Clarkson.



'Yeti and Bird' by Nadia Shireen.



These books will allow us to explore friendship and what a good friend looks like. What friendship super power do they have and why it is important build positive relationships.

Year R children will be discussing the stories, making predictions and building on their comprehension of what is being read in class.

Years 1 and 2 we will be focusing on what makes good sentence structure, ensuring that we consistently use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Also promoting pride in our writing through thinking about using best presentation and celebrating our achievements around writing.

We will complement this with daily handwriting practice.

STARLING CLASS OVERVIEW - Autumn 1



We would like to welcome you to our new academic year. We really do hope you had a lovely summer break in the glorious sunshine we were lucky to enjoy. We especially welcome our new Reception children, new starters in year 1 and their families as we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

This half term our topic is called 'My Friends' which is a good starting point for us to develop those positive friendships as we all get to know each other and share our interests.

We will keep you updated of our learning via Dojo as you see the children settle into their new school and year groups.

If you have any questions then please do catch myself, Miss Holden or Mrs Rood (Fridays) at the gate or via Dojo. Miss Ball, Miss Holden and Mrs Rood. ☺

Maths

In maths we will continue to use the NCETM maths programme which is designed to give children the opportunity to embed the core skills and deep understanding of number which will assist them as they progress into Key Stage 2. We will be completing a 15 minute daily Mastering Number session to practice previous learning ensuring past knowledge is not forgotten allowing links to be made 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

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 new sounds home for practice as we learn them and for your information. Year 2 children will be embarking on the new 'Bridge to Spelling' programme through Little Wandle phonics. This will assist with spelling rules to help them choose the correct graphemes and digraphs in their writing.

For years 1 and 2, 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 regular are more successful in their reading and writing as they develop through their education.

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. Play-based learning in offers young children a rich and engaging way to explore the world around them. Through imaginative play, hands-on activities, and social interaction, children develop essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, creativity, and emotional regulation. It supports cognitive growth by allowing children to experiment, make choices, and learn from experience in a low-pressure environment. Importantly, play fosters a love of learning and builds the foundation for future academic success through sparking children's natural curiosity and supporting their developmental needs.

PE

PE will be on a Monday afternoon with the sports coach. 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. I am happy for PE kits to stay in school until half term and send home for washing.