



Heathcoat Primary School

Little Explorers Autumn Term Newsletter September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Hello and a very warm welcome to our families new and old to Heathcoat Primary School. We are delighted to welcome all the children to school to our Little Explorers unit.

During the first 4-6 weeks of school life, we will be spending lots of time familiarising ourselves with class and school routines. It is a busy time for the children as they explore the setting and get to show us the things they really love to play with. All staff will be playing and interacting with the children to ensure positive relationships are built, to enable a successful year at school.

Here are some of the themes that the children will follow in their first term in Little Explorers.

Autumn Term 2024		
Term	1st half term - Marvellous Me	2nd half term - Let's Celebrate!
Topics	All about me My family and community My home Feelings and emotions Autumn <u>Key texts:</u> The Colour Monster Rainbow Fish Lost and Found Five Minutes Peace What I like about me! Not Now, Bernard	Winter Changes in materials Celebrations including Diwali and Christmas <u>Key texts:</u> Sparks in the Sky Funny Bones Owl babies (woods) Dipal's Diwali The Lost Gift The Christmas Story
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<u>Being me in my world</u> Children will learn how to recognise and manage their feelings. They will learn the importance of following routines and class rules.	<u>Celebrating difference</u> Children will learn that we are all special and that we have similarities and differences. They will learn how to develop their friendships and be kind to each other.
Communication and Language	During the autumn term, the children will develop their listening skills by listening to the daily class story and engaging in story times. Children will learn and use new vocabulary through the day and ask questions to find out more information. They will talk about their families and reflect on similarities and differences. Children will learn rhymes and songs and be able to talk about familiar books, characters and what they are doing in the stories. They will articulate their thinking in well-formed sentences and ask questions to find out more.	



<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>Real PE - every Monday and Thursday The Birthday Bike Surprise – Coordination & footwork. Pirate Pranks – Static balance on one leg.</p> <p>The children will also be provided with a wide range of daily learning opportunities that will develop both their gross and fine motor skills.</p> <p>Fine motor: ‘finger gym’: activities that develop the children’s strength in their fingers and pincer grip, which is essential for writing.</p> <p>Gross motor skills: activities that develop the children’s body movements.</p>	<p>Real PE- every Monday and Thursday Journey to the Blue planet – Dynamic balance to agility. Jumping and landing. Monkey business – Seated static balance</p> <p>The children will also be provided with a wide range of daily learning opportunities that will develop both their gross and fine motor skills.</p> <p>Fine motor: ‘finger gym’: activities that develop the children’s strength in their fingers and pincer grip, which is essential for writing.</p> <p>Gross motor skills: activities that develop the children’s body movements.</p>
<p>English</p>	<p><u>Phonics-</u></p> <p><u>3-4year olds</u>-Environmental sounds- Listening and describing to different sounds in the environment and different instruments.</p> <p><u>4-5year olds</u> – Read Write Inc –Set 1 sounds</p> <p><u>Reading-</u></p> <p><u>3-4 year olds</u>-share a range of nursery rhymes and stories to develop an understanding of how they are structured and develop an enjoyment of stories.</p> <p><u>4-5 year olds</u>- Read Set 1 individual letters and special friends by saying the sounds for each of them.</p> <p><u>Writing-</u></p> <p><u>3-4 year olds</u>-Encouraging mark making; such as painting, drawing, chinks and messy play. They will be encouraged to give meaning to the marks they make.</p>	<p><u>Phonics-</u></p> <p><u>3-4year olds</u>-Environmental sounds</p> <p>Listening games and exploring making their own sounds.</p> <p><u>4-5year olds</u> – Read Write Inc –Set 1 sounds</p> <p><u>Reading -</u></p> <p><u>3-4 year olds</u>- encouraging the children to retell the stories using props and puppets. They will talk about the characters and give their opinions on them.</p> <p><u>4-5 year olds</u>- . Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short cvc words. Read a few common exception words matched to RWI.</p> <p><u>Writing-</u></p> <p><u>3-4 year olds</u> - Modelling and encouraging children to ‘mark make’ in the role play, writing Christmas lists and cards to friends</p>



	<p><u>4-5 year olds-</u> Begin to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines and then begin to form recognisable letters using RWI rhymes.</p>	<p>and family. The children will make and write a Christmas card for their family.</p> <p><u>4-5 year olds-</u> Write recognisable letters which are formed mostly correctly. Participate in Drawing club and write simple cvc words and simple captions.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>The children will participate in daily mathematical activities with a focus around number blocks. We will provide the children a variety of daily opportunities to develop their understanding of number, shape, measure and spatial thinking in Continuous provision.</p> <p><u>3-4 year olds-</u> Sort objects using different criteria. Begin to know days of the week. Begin to count out a group of up to 3 objects. Understand and subitize up to 3 numbers.</p> <p><u>4-5 year olds-</u> Begin to count up to 5 objects with 1:1 correspondence. To match quantities to numerals. Begin to write numbers to 5, forming them correctly.</p>	<p>The children will participate in daily mathematical activities with a focus around number blocks. We will provide the children a variety of daily opportunities to develop their understanding of number, shape, measure and spatial thinking in Continuous provision.</p> <p><u>3-4 year olds-</u> Understand and know numbers to 3, including zero. Fast recognition of up to 3 objects and subitize. Begin to talk about and identify patterns around them.</p> <p><u>4-5 year olds-</u> begin to count up to 10 objects with 1:1 correspondence and to match quantities to numerals. Begin to add 2 amounts together and say the number sentence. Recognize patterns and recreate repeated design.</p>
<p>Understanding of the world</p>	<p><u>RE Being Special – Where do we belong?</u> The children will share when things have happened in their lives that have made them feel special.</p> <p><u>Geography – Who lives with me in my home?</u> The children will explore the natural world around them and learn about the effect of changing seasons on their local environment.</p> <p><u>Computing – All about instructions</u> The children will learn to receive and give instructions and understand the importance of precise instructions.</p>	<p><u>RE Celebrating Diwali the festival of Lights</u> <u>Why is Christmas special for Christians?</u> Talk about people special to them. What makes their friends and family special? How we celebrate Christmas, similarities and differences.</p> <p><u>Science – Changing states of matter</u> The children will explore the natural world around them and talk about the changes taking place around them.</p>
<p>Expressive arts and design</p>	<p>The children will be exploring different textures and will begin to join different materials. They will explore colour mixing and experiment with different artistic effects. Children will take part in simple pretend play and develop storylines. Children will sing in a group and on their own, beginning to match the pitch and follow the melody.</p>	



<p>Dates for the Diary</p>	<p>Parent read Butterflies – Monday 30th September at 2.35pm Dragonflies – Wednesday 2nd October at 2.55pm Half term- Mon 28th October</p>	<p>Nativity - Wednesday 11th December (more information to follow) Christmas dinner - Thursday 12th December Xmas holidays- Mon 23rd December</p>
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Reading

We teach reading using the Read, Write, Inc. Programme. To encourage a love of reading, we strongly encourage you to read a story book to your child every day or as often as you can. If you aren't a member already, the local library in town is free to join and is a great place to visit with your children so they can do research or borrow books to read at home.

PE: Our PE days are every Monday and Thursday. Children in Little Explorers **do not** need a PE kit, but we ask that on PE days, children **come to school wearing** either **black trainers or pumps**.

Outside learning: Please remember that children have access to the Little Explorers outdoor area and will be going outside to learn on a daily basis, whatever the weather. They will need **waterproof coats** in school **each day** - as you know, our British weather can be unpredictable!

Useful websites:

<p>Topmarks</p>	<p>fun maths games</p>	<p>https://www.topmarks.co.uk/</p>
<p>Phonics Play</p>	<p>play free phonics games to help reinforce the phonic sounds learnt at school</p>	<p>https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/</p>

You can help your child at home by using the above websites and encouraging them to learn through play. Ask them to do a drawing and write about what they have drawn.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us via Tapestry or at the end of the day if you have any questions. If you need to get an important message to us urgently, please contact the office on 01884 252445 or email them on admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

We are looking forward to an exciting term of learning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Addy and Mrs Gunn