

Larch Class - Reception and Year 1

Topic Newsletter- Autumn Term 2019

Enchanted Woodlands



Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a good summer break and yourself and your children are ready for the new school year. All children have come back to school refreshed and prepared to learn.

This term our topic is based around the theme of an 'Enchanted Woodland', which we know will encourage and develop the children's imagination! Through this topic we will be exploring woodlands within our country and the animals that live within them as well as exploring the mystical world of fairies and gnomes.



Reading

The children have a home reading book which should be read daily. At this stage we do not expect Reception children to be able to read the book, but it is more for you to share together. The children will have the opportunity to change their reading book on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The child's reading record should be signed every time someone hears them read; please date and add any comments. Thank you.

English writing

We will be exploring stories, linking phonics to writing and using our taught sounds to write.

Maths

This half term we will continue to develop our skills in the following areas:

- Number recognition for both numerals and written numbers
- Place value within 10
- Addition and subtraction
- Shape
- Place value within 20

Science

Within science this term we will be identifying animals, plants and trees that we find in woodlands and will be developing our knowledge of the different habitats that these animals build their homes in. We will also be building on the children's knowledge of the parts of common plants and trees, as well as exploring a range of life cycles and food chains within a woodland area.

Geography

Within Geography we will be investigating features of woodland and developing our map skills to both read and create a map using a key. We will also be working on using directional language to navigate ourselves and objects around a map and will begin to explore the use of a compass to support us! The children will also be encouraged to explore environmental issues, exploring how we can help protect our woodlands. Through our art sessions we will be exploring the works of Andy Goldsworthy who used natural materials to create pieces of art;

building on this we will then begin creating our own natural art, including a through the wooden door collage! Within design and technology we will be designing and creating a home for a fantasy creature so would appreciate it if your child could bring in a shoe box or a similar sized box for their design. We would appreciate it if these boxes could be brought during the week beginning the 16th September.

RE- We will be learning about Harvest, Diwali and Christmas.

Words

As part of their year in Reception and Year 1, your child will be given a set of high frequency words for you to practise at home with them. We assess the words weekly and move the children on when they are able to read the words.

Homework

This will usually consist of English/Phonics and Maths. This will be given out on a Friday and is due back the following Thursday. House points will be awarded if homework is returned on a Monday. Thank you.

Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child has both indoor and outdoor suitable clothing and also all items are clearly named as lost property builds up very quickly! Thank you. We will be learning games and athletics this term.

Home learning ideas

Here are some ideas that could support you during this term!

- Visit the library to find fiction and non-fiction books about woodlands- which is your favourite? Why?
- Visit a woodland or a forest and take pictures of what you find!
- Find out about gnomes and fairies, exploring which are your favourite and why.
- Go on a natural materials hunt and use these to create pieces of art both outside and inside.

Look out for simple maps in everyday life and begin to use these to navigate yourself to where you would like to go.

Year 1

The National Phonics Screening check usually takes place in June. To help your child at home please encourage them to read, read, read! This should include; books, posters, labels, notices and magazines. The more words that your child is exposed to, the more it will help. If you would like any further ideas or support or if you have any questions then please come and speak to me. Thank you.

Reception

If you would like to see what your children have been doing at school, then please log into your tapestry account. Anyone who is experiencing problems with this, please come and see us. We value any contributions that you put on at home and these all count towards your Child's Early Learning Goals - thank you.



There will be a phonics workshop for parents of the Year 1 children on Monday 7th October at 2.30.

I hope this is useful and if any questions arise please don't hesitate to contact me. I am available to talk before school from 8.45 am and after school most days. Please check our webpage at www.cowley.lincs.sch.uk/

Thank you.

Mrs Ogden and Mrs Poutney

(Class teacher)

(Teaching assistant)