

## Year R Spring 2

### IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY

During this topic we will focus on the features of a forest, including plants and animals. We will also encounter a creature with purple prickles all over his back...

#### Mathematics

This half term we will be focusing on knowing the numbers to 20. We will make sure that we can recognise all of them and that we know what is one more or one less than these numbers. We will also learn about the different ways we can make the number 10. These are called number bonds.

#### Physical Development :

The children will continue to have P.E lessons on a Monday afternoon. This half term we will be focusing on ball skills.

We will also continue to strengthen the muscles in the children's arms, shoulders, backs, fingers and wrists through fun activities inside and out.

#### Understanding the World

This area will become the main focus for our topic.

The children will learn about the different types of trees and plants found in forests and will use the correct names for them. We will learn about the types of animals that might live in a forest and what kinds of homes they build. We will think about how a forest changes during different seasons.

We will also investigate shadows after reading the story 'The Gruffalo's Child'. In Outdoor Explorers we will find out about how our environment changes as Spring arrives.

#### Reading and Writing

The children will be encouraged to look at different books in order to find out facts. We will give children different reading challenges during discovery time.

We will continue to have daily phonics sessions in which we will recap the phonemes and graphemes we have learnt and will be applying these in our reading and writing.

The children will be asked to try a range of different writing activities such as:

- Making maps with labels to help the mouse get through the woods.
- Learning about descriptive language (Purple prickles, knobbly knees, sharp teeth).
- Making a menu for the Gruffalo's shop (Owl ice cream, Roasted fox, Scrambled snake).
- Writing notes in notebooks investigating a crime in the forest.
- Writing letters to woodland fairies.

We will continue to have daily Drawing Club sessions, too.

#### Expressive Arts :

This half term, the children will be exploring the art work of Axel Scheffler. We will use clay and collage as well as natural materials to make our own works of art. Outside we will make a woodland themed café where the children can serve customers, handle money and write menus. They may even need to become police detectives to solve a woodland crime!

In Music we will be learning about high and low sounds. We will use tuned instruments to explore pitch and will use the nursery rhyme Incy Wincy spider to help us.

### Communication and Language:

We will be using listening skills a lot this half term! We will listen to environmental sounds and identify what kinds of sounds we might hear in the woods. We will use verbal clues to help us find hidden objects. We will encourage the children to start to explain to their friends how they made something and why they have used certain materials.

We will also develop children's vocabulary by learning and using wonderful words related to our topic each week. Some of the words we will learn are:

HABITAT, ENVIRONMENT, INVESTIGATION, NUMBER BONDS, HYGIENE, DIFFERENCE, DESCRIPTION, DELIBERATE, ACCIDENT, SALVATION, TOMB, EASTER, PALM

### Personal, Social and Emotional:

We will continue to learn about DREW from Trick Box, thinking about what we are good at and what we need to do when we try something new.

We will also talk about how we have changed since we were a baby and how we are all different.

**Our new trick this half term will be Floating Cloud. It's all about relaxing and pretending to float on a cloud to help yourself calm down.**



### Ways you can support your child at home :

- Share your child's reading book with them at least 4 times a week.
- Practise reading the tricky words and graphemes we have learned as often as you can.
- Encourage your child to write... anything and everything! Continue to use their grapheme mat with them to help them find the right graphemes to use.
- Remember, the children are taught how to spell tricky words correctly but will often spell other words phonetically—this enables them to write independently, as they can use their phonics knowledge to work out which graphemes to use.
- Practise counting forwards and backwards to 20.

### Religious Education:

This half term we will be looking at the concept of Salvation. We will find out about what happened on Palm Sunday and the significance of this for Christians. We will also learn about why the cross is an important symbol for Christians.

### KEY KNOWLEDGE TO BE TAUGHT THIS HALF TERM

Plants grow from seeds or bulbs. We can eat some plants. Trees have different names and can be evergreen or deciduous.

Animals live in homes called habitats. Habitats are all different and have different names. The forest is a habitat for some animals.

Animals have babies. Sometimes they look the same as them, sometimes they are different.

The cross is a special symbol for Christians.