



Wrens Newsletter Autumn Term 2016

Our topic this term is '**Into The Woods**'; it will have a strong link to Science and Geography. Please find further details about each subject below.

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our English and topic work will be closely linked this term. We will be reading lots of traditional tales set in woodlands and performing them to each other, as well as rewriting them in our own words. We will also explore parodies of traditional tales and discuss which versions we like best. We will read myths relating to how trees got their names and have a go at making up some of our own, as well as recounting our trip to Salcey Wood.</p> <p>In phonics this term we will start by revising the graphemes taught in Reception and applying this phonic knowledge to help us read words and write sentences. Then we will begin to learn some alternative spellings for the graphemes already taught so that we can access a wider range of vocabulary and begin to make decisions about which spelling rules to apply in our writing.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Maths lessons take place every day and we also have regular, 'short and snappy' mental maths sessions (eg: from 8.40, before lunch, etc) for 10-15 minutes. This term we will focus heavily on developing number fluency so that children can recognise and use numbers confidently. This will involve a lot of counting - forwards, backwards, from different start numbers and developing children's understanding of place value so that they can order numbers. We will also focus on learning number facts e.g. number bonds to ten and the two, five and ten timetables to help us solve calculations. Our topic will also provide lots of opportunities for using maths in a purposeful way, for example, planning routes around the woodland, measuring the lengths of leaves and the circumferences of trees.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>Our Science work this term will link closely to our topic 'Into the Woods'. The children will learn about the plants and trees in their local environment, their basic structure and how to care for them. Throughout the year, they will be encouraged to observe changes across the four seasons, including the weather associated with each season.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>We'll be learning this term about the huge variety of technology available to us, both at school and at home; linked in with this is of course internet safety. Digital maps and resources are widely used today so we'll be looking at aerial maps and satellite images using popular browsers such as Google.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>Our humanities learning will have a strong geography emphasis - we'll be looking at our local environment and answering geographical questions such as 'What is this place like?' In the first few weeks of this term, we will start by exploring the River Great Ouse and consider how rivers begin and where they go to. We'll also have a go at following maps, using 'aerial' programmes (such as Google Earth) to see if we can recognise landmarks and basic physical features</p>

<p>Art & DT</p> 	<p>In Art we will be looking closely at pattern and texture in the world around us. We will spend time in the woodland making rubbings and exploring pattern in the natural world. We will experiment with pencil, charcoal and chalk and the different marks they can make. The children will take inspiration from the book 'Into the Woods' to make their own forest display. In DT, the children will have the opportunity to design and make their own 'Gingerbread House' from the traditional tale 'Hansel and Gretel'.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>In Music, we will listen to and enjoy lots of different styles of music and use key songs to help us learn about pulse, rhythm and pitch. The children will experiment with different percussion instruments and work towards a performance piece. They will also take part in a weekly 'Singing Assembly'.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>PSHE lessons at the beginning of this term will focus on the 'Golden Rules' and the 'School Games Values' to ensure that all children have a good understanding of the behaviours we expect to see in school. Later in the term, PHSE lessons will focus on conflict resolution, helping the children learn the vital skills needed to resolve conflict in their lives, such as dealing with angry feelings and having strategies in place to make up after arguments.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p> 	<p>In their indoor PE lessons this term, the children will be working on the apparatus. They will learn how to set them out safely and how to manage the apparatus when working as part of a group. They will be taught the 'safe landing position' and have the opportunity to experiment with different jumps, including the straight, tuck and star jump. In Games, they'll be enjoying multi-skills activities, vital for physical learning and awareness at this age.</p>
<p>Religious Education</p> 	<p>This term we will be learning about the Christian celebrations of Harvest and Christmas. We will be exploring why these celebrations are special to Christians and the different ways in which they are celebrated. We will use stories to learn about how Jesus inspired people and reflect upon the people in our lives that inspire us.</p>
<p>Other Information</p> 	<p>The focus for 'Home learning' this half term is reading. Please listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and sign their reading diary to indicate they need a new book. Wellies and waterproofs are essential for the children to enjoy and make the most of the outdoors and all the learning opportunities it has to offer. Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies and waterproofs in school throughout the week. Our PE days this term are Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school with them on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss Lauren Dimelow