

Birkrigg – Autumn 1

We are very pleased with how all the children are settling into school.

Our topic this term is **Fairy Tales**.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson are the class teachers; Mrs Edmondson will teach the children on Monday and Tuesday, and Miss Turner will teach on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Davies will work with the children on a Wednesday morning. We have two teaching assistants over the course of the week, Mrs Rigg and Mrs Kenealy. Mrs Cull is our support assistant.

Literacy

We aim to start our daily Phonics time the first week that all the children are in full time. Later in the half term as Phonics progresses, children will each get a red Church Walk book bag and a reading journal. A separate letter will be sent out with these along with a first reading book.

In Literacy we will be focusing on fairy tales and reading well known fairy tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man and The Enormous Turnip. We will be doing lots of story sequencing, retelling the stories and thinking about what the characters in the stories are like.

Maths

To begin with children will do lots of activities involving matching and sorting, then comparing amounts as well as comparing size, mass and capacity, and exploring pattern. We will read lots of stories that provide the starting points for many Maths based activities. Plenty of opportunities will be given for the children to practise their counting as we move on to activities that involve representing numbers.

Understanding the World

We are going to get some seeds and bulbs planted in our outdoor area and even grow our own beanstalks! We will think about the season of Autumn and what changes happen in Autumn. Towards the end of the half term, we will look closely at vegetables, think about how they grow and use them in our Art. We also hope to do some baking and cooking!

RE

Our topic this half term is 'I am special' and we will explore what makes everyone unique. Later in the half term we will explore harvest and why Christians celebrate harvest.

PSHE

We will focus on settling in, thinking about how we are feeling, and getting to know each other. We will also begin to think about rules and boundaries within our classroom and school.

Music

Children will be learning to sing a variety of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, adding actions as we go along. Using the Interactive White Board (IWB), we will play copycat rhythm games.

Expressive Arts and Design

There are opportunities daily for the children to explore drawing and painting independently. The children will also be painting self-portraits for a classroom display and exploring printing patterns

using shapes and vegetables. There will be lots of chances for investigation, for example, making a harp (Jack and the Beanstalk), or for junk modelling, for example, a bed for Goldilocks.

Computing

Our classroom desktop computer is available daily during continuous provision. The children enjoy games which focus on developing their mouse skills. There is also a 'Paint' programme they can access both on the desktop and the IWB. We will also gradually introduce the internet software Purple Mash and they will be given time to explore the content. To start with, this will be the 'paint' projects in the Early Years section. The children will all get their own log in for this so they can access it from home as well.

PE

We have two hall times, Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. This half term we will be doing gymnastics and a variety of games as well as some children's yoga. We can also use the hall for circle time and parachute games.

Please ensure your child always has a full PE kit in school (red T-shirt, black shorts and pumps) and all items are clearly labelled with their name. Long hair must be tied back, and jewellery removed.

Weather permitting, we also hope to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and get out onto the school field.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. A pair of wellies would also be very useful.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to us.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson