

## Autumn 1 'Nursery Rhymes' Parent Overview

Welcome to Birkrigg!

Each half term each class sends home an overview to let you know what we will be covering in our curriculum.

### Communication, language and literacy

We will be focussing a great deal on speaking and listening activities at the beginning of this half term. We will be practising familiar nursery rhymes and learning some new ones and using them as a vehicle for our topic work. Our writing activities will include writing captions for our models, lists and stories. Squiddley and Diddley, our Giant African land snails are returning to Birkrigg and we will be making booklets to help us to learn how to take care of them.

Reading Folders for Reception will be given out during Week 2.

Wednesday is the Birkrigg library day. Children have a weekly session in the library learning about fiction and non-fiction books and how the library is organised. They then take one book home per week, bringing it back in their reading folder on a Wednesday ready to change. These books are to be shared with parents and carers.

Reception children will start phonics sessions during Week 1. Once we have sorted out phonics groupings parents and carers will receive a letter telling them more about the sorts of activities we are doing, and how you can support your child at home.

### Maths

Our first two weeks are going to be focussed on numbers, working with numbers up to 20, and beginning to count in tens. Children will have a designated daily maths slot. Much of our work is practical and we use lots of songs and rhymes which children may come home and share with you. Children will also be working on maths through their play.

### Science

We are investigating animals and their habitats this half term. We are also setting up a wormery in the classroom. In the weeks following we will look at animals and amphibians. We invite children to bring in any books, fiction or non-fiction to share on our topics, the first one being insects.

During our first week we will be visiting the school field to explore its plants and animals as part of our work on seasons. We visit the field regularly to monitor changes and link them with the changing seasons. Please ensure your child has a pair of named wellingtons to leave in school. Thank you.

### Art and DT

Much of our art work is inspired by other areas of our curriculum so we are going to be making insects and animals out of various materials, using

different tools. We do a lot of cooking in this half term- usually Fridays-and use this to help children with science work.

## RE

Our first theme is 'Belonging'. We will look at how all of us are unique and belong to ourselves, families and school. We will look at how Christians belong to God and what baptism symbolises. Towards the end of half term we will hold a baptism re-enactment and children will be invited to share their own experiences of Christenings.

## PE

In Games sessions children will be practising changing and learning the rules for safe PE sessions. Mrs O'Neill teaches games on a Thursday afternoon.

In Gym children will develop personal independence skills and learn to make simple body shapes both on the floor, and on apparatus.

The Birkrigg Gym session is on a Tuesday. All earrings need to be removed for PE sessions.

## Computing

Children will learn how to use a mouse and talk about the different parts of a computer. We make our own computers in DT.

We will be learning about internet safety and different uses of ICT. The children will experience a variety of computer programmes based on different curriculum areas and topics, and further develop their ICT skills.

## Music

This half term in music the children will be learning about beat and tempo. They will sing familiar rhymes and learn new songs.

## Toast Fridays

To help raise money for school funds and to support other charities, we do "Toast Fridays". For 30p children can buy a slice of buttered toast and a glass of juice. Children can either pay 30p each Friday morning, if they wish to partake, or pay for the half term ( £2.10 for this half term).

## Things to remember:

- Named PE kits
- Named wellingtons
- Books about / featuring insects
- Fill and return 'All About Me' sacks
- Complete and return School pick ups letter
- Return school data forms given out on Home visits (ask for spares if lost)