

Birkrigg – Autumn 1

Welcome! Our topic this half 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. Mrs Rigg and Mrs Shephard will also work with us.

Literacy

We aim to start our daily Phonics time in a few weeks' time when we feel the children are ready. Until then we have a daily rhyme time where we learn to sing a rhyme and tune into different sounds connected to the rhyme. Before the end of the half term, 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. Initially these books will be wordless, but they have lots of scope for talk.

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 using stick puppets 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 will talk about our families and the places we go with them. If you have a picture of your child as a baby that you could bring into school, that would be fantastic. We can talk about how we grow and change. We will also talk about our homes.

We are going to talk about the weather and use our senses to explore our immediate environment. As September draws to a close, we will think about the season of Autumn and what changes happen around us in Autumn. Towards the end of the half term when we have our Harvest Festival, 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! We might even try and grow our own beanstalks!

RE

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

PSE

We will focus on settling in and managing ourselves in school, for example, changing for PE, fastening our coats, etc. We are going to think about when and why it is important to wash our hands. We will spend time getting to know each other, understanding how we are feeling and thinking about how we can be a good friend. We will also discuss the rules and boundaries within our classroom and school and draw up our class charter together.

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 making things, cutting and sticking, drawing and painting independently using the painting easel or at the creative table. Guided activities will include painting self-portraits for a classroom display, making a baby bear mask and printing with vegetables.

Computing

We start by introducing the IT equipment and resources we use in our classroom – *iPad, laptop, interactive whiteboard, website* and how things work – *plug, lead, socket*. We then gradually introduce the internet software Purple Mash and children 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 login for this so they can access it from home as well. A letter detailing this will be sent out.

PE

We have two PE times which may change with each term. This term, PE will be on a Tuesday morning and a Wednesday afternoon. We spend this half term familiarising the children with the spaces we use for PE and getting changed into and out of their PE kits.

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 when we can.

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