



PIPPIN CLASS – Spring Term “From Freeze to Thaw”



Communication and Language

Speaking and listening skills are intrinsic to all our activities and correct modelling of sounds and grammar. Adults are careful to ensure all children are given the time and opportunity to speak and be heard, whether in a group or on their own.

This term we will continue to practice good letter formation, including letter families and spelling tricky words. Phonics continues with verbal sounds, letter shapes and reading longer words. Books and stories are read daily with children choosing books to take home. Our focus stories will be “Goldilocks”, “Going on a Bear Hunt” and “Jack and The Beanstalk” with lots of others. Daily nursery rhymes and songs help to build children’s vocabulary and confidence in speaking. These skills are also developed in performing “Talk for Writing” story texts as a whole class. World Book Day in March will include a range of activities around our favourite books.

We are reading...



RE

We will think about the following “Big Questions”: Which stories are special and why? including bible stories and favourite books for “World Book Day”. We will find out “Why Easter is special” for Christians and make an Easter Garden in church.

Attending church on Wednesdays, saying school prayers and Easter celebrations help us belong to our school community. The values for this term are Hope, Love and Creativity.

Mathematical Development

Children’s understanding of maths begins as play based activities, as the term progresses numbers are matched to quantities and mathematical language is extended: more, less, same, bigger, smaller etc, we will measure, height, length and weight.

We will try to recognise by sight amounts and combination up to 10, including zero, with practical addition and subtraction. Maths takes place indoors and outside, as we handle weights, quantities and negotiate spaces. A sense of time is taught through photographic timetables and visual calendars, marking seasons, birthdays and days of the week.

Understanding of the World



In Pippin Class this term we always enjoy exploring our local environment, including visits to Church, the village, forest school, assembly and our own outdoor area.

Our first topic will be “Snuggle up Tight” followed by “Into The woods” after half term. The themes will follow seasonal changes, hibernation, weather, Shrove Tuesday and Easter traditions. We will find out about all different types of bears, native woodland animals, life cycles, keeping warm, and how things grow.

Expressive Arts and Design

Continuous provision in Pippin Class provides many opportunities for Art, Music, Drama and design. In addition, adult led music sessions teach about:

- Rhythm
- Pulse
- Composition
- Percussion.

The focus stories will form the basis for some mood composition with percussion instruments.

Creative activities are linked to the topics and specific craft projects around the story themes, in Forest school, free play and adult led Art opportunities.



What you can do to help:

Get out and about in the countryside identifying plants, spring flowers, birds and animals. Find out about where food comes from. Use counting for role play shopping and games, measure height, length and cooking ingredients. Count items and talk about

- How many?
- More and less.

Look at door numbers and car number plates to recognise numbers in the environment. Practice correct letter formation, draw and paint with your child, in sand, condensation, chalk, mud etc. Read school books, bedtime stories and nursery rhymes as often as you can. Thank you.

Enrichment

Forest School, wellie walks and cookery take place weekly. We love visiting the community coffee morning to share a chat over a biscuit with some of our Pencombe neighbours. The children also join in with whole school celebrations and assemblies, with siblings, families and friends. We hope to see you there.



Reading and Writing

We will continue to practice our letter families and sounds in phonics.

We will talk about books together and continue to blend sounds.



Personal, social and emotional development

Personal, social, emotional development is part of all we do in Pippin Class, as children learn to share, cooperate and make choices.

Children also take part in circle time and work with partners to develop social skills with their peers and the older children. The topics this term are Taking on New Challenges and Listening to and Following Instructions.

Computing

Children in Pippin Class have regular access to programmable toys such as "bee-bots" and use of iPad for:

- Creative play,
- Photography
- Programming games.

Topics this term include simple data handling and an introduction to computing systems.



Physical Development

Gross motor skills are developed outside and inside through play, bike riding, wellie walks, construction and PE lessons.

There will be lots of outdoor activities and challenges using large materials, forest school and gardening to improve strength and coordination. As children grow and strengthen, we will incorporate more collaborative and rule-based games.

Fine motor skills are practiced daily in dough disco, free play, drawing, cutting out, craft, cooking, computing and counting activities.

Values of the term:

January - Hope
February - Love
March - Creativity
April - Respect