

Mulberry Tree Class

Class teacher: Miss Sarah Houghton **Learning Support Assistant** - Mrs Vanessa Pilcher

Topic theme - We have 6 topics throughout the year. We change the topic at the beginning of every half term. We try to ensure that all topics are influenced by the children's interests. Our topic for this half term is '**Me and my home and the rest of the world**'. We will change the classroom displays and the role play area to match the current topic.

Reading - The expectation is that reading is completed at home every night for 10 minutes. Comments are recorded into Reading Records and parents can use the '50 ways to say well done' sheet. In school your child will read with us twice a week. We will listen to them read, change their books and practice individual sounds with them in this 1:1 session. Your child will have two books, one book will be fully decodable and linked to the phonics being taught that week, the other will be a free choice from their book band level. We will introduce guided reading as the term develops.

Phonics/Letters and Sounds - Phonics is taught every morning to the class. We follow a programme called Letters and Sounds. We teach the letters and sounds in a particular order - Please see attached information. In order for parents to support the children at home we will send them home with a Phonics Homework book each weekend. This gives you a reminder that we have taught a series of new sounds and gives you ideas as to how you can immediately reinforce that week's learning. We also provide a letters and sounds fan which you will find in your child's reading folder. Please look after these as it takes a lot of time to produce them for every child!

Dough Gym and Funky Fingers - We have used dough gym and funky fingers as an early intervention system for the children in Mulberry Tree class for a few years now. Dough gym involves lifting a large lump of play dough in different ways and over time this helps to develop the children's gross motor skills. Funky fingers involves completing very small activities such as placing hooped cereal onto sticks against a timer, or twisting chunky nuts and bolts. This then develops their fine motor control. We also practice our scissor skills during this session and the children rotate through each activity every morning. These activities are full of fun and the children do not realise that the purpose is to help them to write with good posture and pencil control!

Maths - Taught daily, covering a range of topics such as: Place Value, addition and subtraction, geometry, time, length and height, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement and money. We also use a range of resources to support us in teaching these topics including Numicon. Numicon is a child friendly, hands on, playful way to learn about number and place value.

Science - Taught once a week (usually on a Monday). The children will be learning about Ourselves (Inheritance), Materials, Forces, Light and Sound, Our Environment (Recycling), Animals including Humans and Plants and Living Things.

PE - Taught once a week and is always on a Friday afternoon. Earrings need to be removed before school as adults are not permitted to remove them. Due to Covid restrictions the children will need to wear their PE kits every Friday. Please ensure they are wearing full PE kit, as lessons will be inside and outside.

Forest Schools - Mulberry Tree class visit the forest every other week. The children will have waterproof outfits provided for them. All children must have a pair of wellington boots in school. Parents/grandparents are welcome to join us for these sessions, except for the first session which is always set aside for learning the rules and boundaries.

Early Morning Work - We complete our Super Sentences every morning. We award a boy and a girl on a Friday with a superhero cape for demonstrating progress.

Discovery Boxes - We send home a range of discovery boxes on a Friday afternoon for the children to explore with you over the weekend. We have a selection of items that will support the children in a range of different learning opportunities. We politely ask that great care is taken when a discovery box is taken home. Please ensure all contents are looked after and returned on the following Monday.

Learning can be messy - We try our best to ensure that the children have an enjoyable and productive day and will often expose them to new opportunities which can sometimes be a little bit messy. We use aprons to prevent children from getting too dirty but there will be times where your little ones will come home with a range of marks on their tops or bottom halves. This is all part of learning and we hope that you will support us and the children in making sure we have a great time through these learning opportunities. A couple of years ago we made our own special 'lunchtime aprons' to try and minimise the daily lunch mess which made a big difference.

Illness/absence - Please ensure you ring the school office if your child is unwell and cannot attend school. If they have been sick we ask that you keep your child at home for 48 hours from the last time they are sick to ensure that it is not passed onto the other children. If you can also let us know if someone else is picking up your child from school it will make it easy to dismiss the children at the end of the day.

Class Facebook Page - Mulberry Tree Class have their own Facebook page. You can find it via the schools website on the class page for Mulberry Tree Class.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to speak to myself or the other adults and we will be happy to answer your questions.

I'm looking forward to spending this year with your child and to the many adventures we will have!

Miss Houghton.

