



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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YR Topic letter Spring term 2011

17.1.2011.

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to the Spring term and our topic of Night and Day. The children seem well rested and enthusiastic to learn, and I am delighted to be back in the classroom full time. Fear not, regular links with Mrs Pickett will be maintained; on a weekly basis she will be taking the children for PE and maths.

The dark mornings may not encourage us to jump out of bed and the dark evenings are rather gloomy but they act as an excellent start to the topic, when we can reflect on which animals like the dark and what our bedtime routines are.

Please be prepared for a number of strange requests as the topic progresses: toothbrushes, torches, favourite bedtime books, small pieces of fabric, cardboard boxes and photos of daytime activities.

The children will be working using the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the six areas of learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be learning about the things that help them to stay fit, healthy and safe. Dental hygiene, plenty of sleep and healthy eating will be discussed, with help from visitors and cooking lessons. Reflective clothing will also be investigated. Children will also learn about a variety of celebrations including Chinese New Year (just for children-please wear red), Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter (see below).

Communication, Language and Literacy

Children will be learning about the different purposes for writing: letters, lists, recipes, instructions, stories and cards. The writing table will be supplied with plenty of resources to support children when they wish to extend this activity. If you are able to provide us with envelopes, invitations, catalogue order forms or any writing matter the children will be delighted to try their developing skills. The children will also have a drama lesson once a week in the hall, based on favourite books and stories.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

This term we are focussing on 'one more' and 'one less' in practical maths activities. It would be helpful if you could sometimes talk about this in activities at home, e.g. having enough towels when swimming, needing more spoons for tea. Each week there will be a 'Rhyme of the Week.' Last week it was 'When Goldilocks went to the House of the Bears.' This week it is 'Hickory, Dickory, Dock.' Please ask your child what the rhyme is and help them to learn it.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Children will continue to improve their computer skills in group work rather than on a two children to an adult basis. Many can now type their name unaided.

The focus in science is on sources of light, animals that like the night, torches, reflective clothing, the planets, colour, shadows, weather and light. We will be learning about the jobs people need to do at night to keep us safe.

Physical Development

We will continue to have plenty of active outdoor play and when the weather is better this will extend to other parts of the school grounds. In PE children will be learning about balance and respond with imagination to music and stories. Please check that all PE kit still fits. Fine skills will also be developed with puzzles, beads, construction and cutting out. Practising with scissors at home will give children greater confidence in all aspects of their work, e.g. book making.

Creative Development

This class has many very creative children who delight in 'making things.' They will be encouraged to do this all of the time and in addition there will be specific creative activities which we will expect everyone to have a go at, e.g. making a quilt for their teddy.

We are very fortunate to have a superb team of well qualified and experienced adults who love working with your children. They support the children in a number of ways but also they are able to stand back and allow children to become independent when they are ready to do so.

At home you can help us by encouraging you child/children to do as much as they can for themselves when dressing, finding things and tidying. Most children also appreciate being given 'a job' however simple at home.

Dates for the dairy:

Thursday 3rd February

Beginning of Chinese New Year

Tuesday 8th March

Pancake day 11 am

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th March

Parents' Evenings

In the week beginning 4th April

Easter Parade 2.30pm

Looking forward to a very happy and productive term with lots of good quality learning.

Thank you for your continued support and help. If you have any specific skills, knowledge or resources which you think would give added interest to our topic please speak to me about it.

I am usually available before school Tuesday-Friday and after school Monday, Wednesday and Thursday to discuss concerns and help.

Best wishes,

Mrs J. Bellotti