

# Windmills: Curriculum Information Letter



**TEACHER:** Mrs Tweedley

**LSAs:** Mrs McCall and Mrs Dickel

**Book changing days:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please send your child's book bag to school every day.

**PE:** Tuesday - Children come to school wearing outdoor PE kit suitable for the weather and trainers. They will stay in their PE kit all day.

**Forest School:** Wednesday. Please send your child to school dressed in comfortable clothes e.g. tracksuit, leggings and jumper. Also please send waterproof trousers or suit (in a bag), hat, gloves, wellies and warm/waterproofs for Forest School sessions.

**Homework:** Sharing a book from home, library book or school reading book (5 times a week). Please write in Orange reading record. Read, Write Inc. letter sounds practice.

## Spring Curriculum "Fly High and Explore"

**Spring 1** Space

**Spring 2** Animals that Fly, Light and Dark and Kites

These topics will also be supplemented by topics the children choose themselves.

<b>Literacy</b>	Our Daily Phonics sessions will continue and we will link our knowledge of sounds with reading using the Read Write Inc approach. In our daily phonics lessons, the children will be learning new sounds and 'special friends' as well learning to read and spell 'green words' (phonically decodable) and 'red words' (tricky words). They will be practising their phonics skills by reading short 'ditties' and books. Each week we will also read stories linked to our topics and children will participate with actions, drama activities and sequencing to help them learn about story language and structure. Children will continue to write labels and captions and they will start to write simple sentences. We will continue to learn about the difference between story books and information books. <u>The Write Stuff:</u> 'Grandma Fantastic' helps the children to develop their vocabulary. Some of our key texts include 'How to Catch a Star', 'Pigs Might Fly', 'Owl Babies', along with a variety of information books about space, owls, light and dark & nocturnal animals.
<b>Maths</b>	This term in Maths we will be continuing to explore number, shape and measure using the White Rose Maths Scheme. The children will deepen their understanding of numbers up to 10, representing these numbers in different ways, comparing and ordering numbers, counting groups accurately, and using mathematical vocabulary 'more' and 'less' to compare groups of objects. They will learn their number bonds to 5/10 and will begin to explore odd and even numbers. We will compare different lengths, heights and capacities, and make simple patterns using solid 3D shapes.
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional</b>	<u>Dreams &amp; Goals:</u> Aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this <u>Healthy Me:</u> Being and keeping safe and healthy During the Spring Term we will learn about celebrations including Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Mothering Sunday and Easter. We will explore foods, dances and ways of celebrating from our own and other cultures.
<b>Understanding of the World</b>	We will start by learning about Space. The children will find out about Space and planets through story and information books. We will learn about astronauts and what jobs they do in space and look forward to becoming astronauts for the day. We explore concepts such as light and dark, night and day, magnets and hot and cold through stories, technology, experiments and creative activities. We will also learn about animals that fly at night. Later in the term we will observe Spring changes.
<b>Communication and Language</b>	'Show and Tell' and role play opportunities have proved very popular and these will continue in the Spring Term. Children will continue to develop their speaking and listening skills in large and small groups. They will be given opportunities to ask questions and explain their thought and ideas using an increasing range of vocabulary. Grandma Fantastic will help us to collect new vocabulary from her basket!

<b>Physical Development</b>	All children will be challenged daily to use their gross and fine motor skills. All children will take part in 'Funky Fingers' activities to continue to strengthen their muscles in their fingers ready for writing. As part of this, children will develop their handwriting and practice correct letter formations. Children's gross motor skills will continue to be developed through 'Wake and Shake' and lots of physical outdoors activities. Windmills class will continue to have weekly PE lessons - our focus will be gymnastics and multi-skills.
<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	The children will have opportunities to explore instruments and make up songs during their free play. They will be given the opportunity to use a range of mediums and techniques to create expressive artwork and design models. They will consider how they can improve their models and test out ways of making things stronger. Children will design and make rockets using a variety of objects e.g. recycled, natural and manmade materials, and will explore how to make things fly. They will discover how Space and flight can be recreated through music, art, dance and drama.

**Possible family visits/ activities which could enrich your child's learning:**

- Read information books about space and animals that fly.
- Visit your local library. Provide opportunities for children to express their ideas verbally and explore a rich vocabulary through high quality books.
- Visit a local wildlife park and find out about different types of birds.
- Observe seasonal changes during walks (e.g. changes in the weather, identifying spring plants)

**Practical ways to support your child's learning:**

- Encourage independence in everyday routines, e.g. taking responsibility for their book bag, coat, water bottle
- Support your child with getting dressed/undressed independently (including doing up buttons and zips, putting their shoes on the correct feet, putting on their coat)
- Read a variety of books to your child and encourage a love of reading.
- Count lots of different objects in as many contexts as possible. Encourage your child to point to each object as they say the number name.
- Practise fine motor skills, writing their name and forming letter shapes.
- Play turn-taking games (e.g. board games) and promote sharing and turn-taking.
- Explore number bonds to 5/10. Count out this many objects and separate the objects into two groups. How many objects in each group? Can you say or record the corresponding number sentence?