



Elm Class Update - Week 3

Autumn 1

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy week! The children have harvested apples and plums from schools' fruit trees. With Mrs Wray's help they divided them equally into small bags for everyone to take home. We hope they tasted yummy 😊. The children have all been superstars lending a hand digging over raised beds in the edible garden of Elm class outdoor area. We hope you enjoyed the potatoes and onions that the children brought home. A big thankyou to Aurelia, Esmee and Aria for helping to put together the vegetable bags for everyone. The children have been learning new gardening vocabulary such as trowel, soil, rake, weed, dig and raised bed. They know to wear gloves first to protect their hands before gardening and wash their hands when we go back inside. The children know how important it is to wear their wellies in the garden to protect their feet and keep them warm and dry. Wellies are used every day in Elm Class so if your child still does not have a pair of wellies in their locker then we would be grateful if you could provide a pair as soon as possible with your child's names clearly written inside. Thankyou.

Soon, we can begin planting out winter vegetables such as broad beans, onions and garlic. This week the children will be using some of the potatoes that they harvested from one of the raised beds last week to make vegetable soup. Mrs Wray will be adding tasty vegetables such as carrots, leeks and vegetable stock. The children will be included in every step of the process and will taste their wonderful soup when cooled. Yum!

This week reception children in Elm Class will be taking part in the Governments EYFS Baseline Assessment check. Further information can be found in the booklet already shared with reception families. Thank you.

Areas of Learning

Literacy and Physical development

This week the children will continue to be encouraged to mark make their name at every opportunity and be encouraged to make marks for a real reason during investigations linked to their inside and outside play.

Early writing skills will be extensively encouraged and during this half term we will be providing activities that will build up muscles in the children's arms such as the shoulder, elbow and wrist pivots. Large movement activities such as cleaning the walls and windows with large brushes and water, painting tree trunks with dissolvable foam, sweeping the leaves off the deck and digging big such as in the sand or soil – are just some activities that help to strengthen children's key pivots which help to develop better writers. For children with developed dexterity smaller paper, A4 whiteboards, pens/ pencils and watercolour painting using thin brushes and threading activities all help to promote and strengthen the children's finger joints and master a comfortable pencil grasp.

Mathematics

This week we will continue to share White Rose Math's Phase 1 stories linked to early years math concepts that we will begin to teach during the coming weeks. This week we will be sharing and discussing stories such as Mr Big by Ed Vere, Naughty Bus by Jan Oke, Crash Boom by Robbie, R Harris and A new house for mouse by Petr Horacek.

We will be counting in the areas alongside the children and encouraging them to point and touch the objects, slowly, as they count them.

Special treats donations – We would be grateful if you could spare some small change every Monday morning to donate to Elm Classes small treats fund. Every penny goes back to every child at significant times of the year in the form of special seasonal treats. This small initiative has been well supported by families in the past and we hope to continue it this academic year. Thank you to those families that have already begun donating every Monday morning. (Please remember a small sealed envelope). Many, many thanks.

Warmest regards, Ms Lilley

