



Elm Class Update - Week 6

Spring 1

Dear parents and carers,

Last week the children had a wonderful time on the balance bike with Richard from the County Council. This week we will be tasting Chinese food inspired by Chinese New year which began on Saturday the 10th of February celebrating the year of the dragon.

Underwear and clothing donations - We have noticed that we are running very low for boys and girls tights, socks, underpants and, also jogging bottoms that both boys and girls can wear. We would be very grateful if you could spare any of the above. If you can donate to our class the children will be most grateful next time one of them has a little accident or gets a bit wet in the water area. Thankyou in advance. If you have underwear or clothing at home still from school we would be very grateful of it can be washed, dried and returned as soon as possible. Thankyou.

Cupcake Tuesday - Fund raising initiative run by schools PTA. If you would like your child to have a cupcake treat please include 50p inside a small sealed envelope with your child's name clearly labelled on the front 😊

Educational Visit to the Oriental Museum in Durham on Wednesday 14th of Feb. We are very excited to be taking learning beyond school and into the Oriental Museum where the children will be immersed in a fun filled day inspired by the Lunar Year of the Dragon. Please see details regarding this visit on the letter that has previously been sent out. Thankyou

Wheellie Wednesday continues. If you would like your child to participate then they are welcome to bring a scooter/ balance bike/ bike and a helmet with them on Wednesday morning and park their scooter/balance bike/ bike in the MUGA until lunchtime play unless the conditions are too icy and it is cancelled for safety reasons.

Tuck shop Friday - Run by schools PTA as a fund raising initiative. If you would like your child to have a little sweet treat after school on Friday then you're welcome to bring your pennies. Opens from 3.20.

Friday 16th school breaks up for half term.

Play matters in Elm class which last week ranged from:

Albie was keen to learn through play in the kitchen area. "I'm making tea for Aria. Its pizza. Ill make some for you as well Mrs Wray. Do you want some? There you go. Lots of cheese yummy pepperoni. There you go Aria. Which one do you like Aria? Ok there's your spicey pepperoni. Now I'm going to make the baby's food. There done. Time for milk. Now time for a cup of tea for the baby. Albie then laughed when he gave the baby a cup of tea! Albie showed wonderful conversation skills during his play today 😊

Annona was keen to learn through play in the role play area. "I'm making a smoothie. I'm putting the carpet down now ready for the tea cup party. The tea is ready its cooling down. I cup, bear has a small one and the baby and the dog. My doggy loves this (tin of milk). A counts 4 tins of milk in a dice dot pattern, then realises there's 1 more tin on the other side of the mat 1234 and 1 more its, its 5 altogether. Sausage dog socks is a pair. Thea also has a pair on. No odd socks share

Annona. She then explores the loose parts area and the blank lady bugs. "2 on this side (wooden leaf shapes) and 5 on this side (stones) 1234567,7 altogether". Wow! Annona demonstrated and applied some wonderful math skills today from recent and prior learning 😊

Luci was keen to learn though play in the Writers workshop area. "I'm making a birthday card for A. She can't see it though because it's a surprise birthday card. She's already 5 so next time she's going to be 6. Annona is my friend. That's her on the card. I'm going to draw Annona and Millie and Thea and Izzy. They're all the ones I'm going to draw". Luci demonstrated her prior knowledge of one more work today through birthdays and ages. Wonderful 😊

Thomas M was keen to learn though play in the clipboard area. "I'm drawing a computer. I'm doing the spellings That's 'h'. That's 'M'. That's in my name. That's 'w'. It's not in my name. 'T' that's T that's in my name. That's the bottom. You press it and it talks to you. It downloads the You Tube". Thomas demonstrated his mark making skills today alongside his ability to remember and match sounds to previous spellings taught. Well-done 😊

Literacy -

- Sounds-Write Programme of work Initial Code - 8 To revise Unit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
- To be introduced to initial code Unit 8
- To revise HFTW - is, a, the, I, for, of, are, was, all
- To be introduced to HFTW - come/ some
- To begin/continue the Sounds-Write reading journey developmentally ready children.
- To encourage mark making opportunities through play.
- To deliver Adult led writing linked to Chinese New Year and Pancake Day
- To use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting or on the floor.
- To develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.
- To form lower-case and capital letters correctly.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.
- Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop
- Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense

Mathematics -

Spring term | Block 4 - Length, height and time

- **Explore length** - In this small step, children are encouraged to explore objects and begin to use the language of length to describe them.
- **Compare Length** - In this small step, children build on their explorations of length to now make comparisons
- **Explore Height** In this small step, children build on the skills they have developed when exploring and comparing length by now exploring height.
- **Compare Height** - Following on from exploring height, in this small step, children move on to using the language 'tallest', 'shortest', 'taller' and 'shorter' to make comparisons

There's lots of wonderful stories that you may like to share with your child at home to support their exploration of height and weight. You may have these texts at home or could access them via a visit to the local library, Search BBC Iplayer or You Tube (However supervision would always be recommended).

Superworm by Julia Donaldson

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs

I Can Only Draw Worms by Will Mabbitt

Titch by Pat Hutchins

Tall by Jez Alborough

Jack and the Beanstalk Traditional Tale

The Giraffe Who Got in a Knot by Paul Geraghty and John Bush

Warmest regards,

Ms Lilley