



Orleans Primary School

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Orleans Nursery Newsletter - Spring Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year! We would like to say a big thank you for the cards and gifts at Christmas which were quite overwhelming and very much appreciated.

Our main topic this half term will be about the colder weather and specific cold places. We will look at how to keep warm, life in the Arctic and animals that live in cold places. (We recommend looking at clips of polar bears and penguins, on YouTube and BBC/nature.co.uk). We will be on daily weather watch as we observe seasonal changes, focusing on ice in particular.

Our role play will transform into an Arctic igloo explorers den for this half term.

Chinese New Year is celebrated during the last week of January and during this time we will be learning all about it, making decorations, listening and dancing to Chinese music and eating noodles using chop-sticks!

Don't forget those Wow moments!

Please feel free to take and complete a wow moment sticker for your child at any time (found in the folder at the nursery entrance). We look forward to celebrating these with the children and recording them within their wow books.

The nursery curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning, although they are not taught separately but link to each other.

Personal, Social and Emotional This half term we will be introducing working as a 'busy bee' and in particular focusing on developing resilience as we attempt new challenges without giving up; celebrating those that 'have a go' and focusing on working as a team. We will continue to encourage the children to consider the needs of others, being kind to everyone, and sharing in our play. We will use circle times to discuss how to look after our toys, environment and each other as we focus on making good choices and using kind hands. We would welcome any 'Wow' stickers linked to these aspects for us to celebrate with the children.

Communication and language We will continue to encourage the children to be confident to speak in a group, listen to others and take turns in talking. We want to develop the children's thinking skills and responses to questions, such as why, how, what would happen if, what do you think? We will encourage the children to use questioning within hands-on exploration play such as when playing with ice blocks or magnets. We will continue to use Bertie bear as a focus of our circle times to strengthen and extend discussions based on real-life scenarios.



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Literacy Our phonics focus will begin with sound discrimination - tuning into the environmental sounds around us. We will begin to explore rhyme, playing matching games and puzzles as well as experimenting with sounds to create and continue a rhyming string. We will continue to sing nursery rhymes, particularly those with repetitive phrases. To develop the children's fine motor and pencil control the children will continue to make marks on a page in response to stories (Write Dance), pick up objects using tweezers, thread beads onto a string, trace pictures, use scissors etc. Early reading skills will include learning rhymes, re-telling stories using pictures and predicting words and phrases in books.

Mathematical development We will focus on counting to 10 and beyond, recognising numbers and matching sets of objects to numbers. Through games and rhymes, we will be learning about adding and taking away. We will also be focusing on shapes in the environment as we go on shape walks, looking at the properties of shapes, such as long, round, pointed, sides and corners. We will begin to make comparisons between heavy and light objects, and longer and shorter lengths. We will also be looking at similarities and differences in matching and sorting and completing and making patterns. We will continue to use construction kits to build for a purpose, developing and using an awareness of shape and space to create imaginative models.

Understanding of the world We will continue to develop and use our observational skills as we care for our environment, focusing on seasonal changes, exploring ice, frost and, weather permitting, maybe even snow!. We will begin regular cooking as part of our topics, making Chinese New Year noodles for example. We will be widening our use and understanding of how technology works as we play games on the Interactive Whiteboard and develop confidence in using remote controlled toys and recording equipment. We will use non-fiction books as well as DVD clips to learn about the Arctic world.

Physical development This term we will begin our weekly small hall sessions (every Tuesday). We will begin with focusing on how to control movement in a larger space through ring and action games. We will move and dance in a variety of ways, sometimes to the accompaniment of music. In day to day activities, we will use a variety of simple tools, including staplers, glue, tape dispensers, hole-punches, pens and pencils and scissors. We will continue to develop the children's fine motor and pre-writing skills by encouraging them to make marks with a wide range of materials such as pens, paint, chalks, water and crayons on both large and small scales.

Creative development We will focus on drawing from observation and imagination, and simple sculpture, as well as painting, printing and collage. In our music sessions we will be using claves and egg shakers to keep the beat, follow rhythm, and make loud and quiet sounds, as well as singing. The children will learn to move imaginatively to music during our music and movement sessions in the hall. We will encourage imaginative play through our role play areas which will include an Arctic Igloo. Please Note - We welcome any old telephones, cameras or other props you may have that we could use within our role play areas.

A reminder that a £5 contribution per half term, payable via ParentPay, really helps towards buying everyday extras for the children such as play dough and cooking ingredients and other specific topic related resources. Thank you in advance for this.

REMINDER - School uniform is compulsory - please make sure it is named.

The children will be using the outside area on a daily basis, so please make sure your child has a coat and is dressed appropriately for the colder, wetter weather.

We hope that this overview of the half term is informative, please continue to check the school website, weekly newsletters and nursery notice board for updated information and key dates.

We look forward to an enjoyable term.

The Nursery Team.