



Term 2 Foundation Curriculum Newsletter

The Little Red Hen, When I Grow Up and Christmas

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely break. We are looking forward to hearing all about what the children have been doing as we share our holiday news.

This term we have planned three exciting topics based on the interests of the children. Our topic for the first part of this term will be 'The Little Red Hen'. We will then move on to 'When I Grow Up' where we will be learning about different jobs and our 'Christmas' topic begins in December.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children really enjoyed seeing their nursery key workers at the keyworker party last term. They shared their learning journeys with them and had lots of fun playing party games. Finally we all ate delicious biscuits, which we decorated on the morning before the party.

The month of November is National Anti-Bullying Month. Christ Church School has a strong anti-bullying ethos and we take this opportunity to raise the children's awareness and understanding throughout the school. Since 'bully' is such a complex term to properly understand, in Foundation we talk about being a good friend and caring for each other. The word bully is not mentioned. We hope you can support us with this terminology.

A Change to the Morning Routine

Well done to the children that have already started to come in independently. Starting from **Tuesday 7th November**, we would like the children to come in independently at 8.40am. We will talk to the children about this on Monday 6th November.

Mathematics

In mathematics we will be exploring 2D shapes and continuing to consolidate our number skills including counting, numeral recognition and beginning to add and subtract practically. In December, as Christmas approaches, we will help some elves to weigh all the different shaped parcels as well as exploring number through the advent calendars and our number of the day. Each week we will be practising the correct formation of written numbers. ***(All numbers are formed by starting at the top.)***

Communication, Language and Literacy

During our Communication, Language and Literacy sessions, we will be encouraging the children to make phonetically plausible attempts at writing words so we are encouraging them to add initial and final sounds to their pictures. e.g. if they colour a picture of a hedgehog, we would expect a 'h' letter to be on their picture along with other letters in some cases.

We will be learning to write for different purposes. This term we will be writing labels, speech bubbles and letters. We will be learning the story of the Little Red Hen orally. Listen out for this at home!

The children will continue to write their name on the independent masterpieces they create in class and will also be practising their name cards during handwriting sessions. Please continue to encourage your child to use the name card that they have brought home - moving onto surnames if your child has already perfected their first names. Your support helps enormously, thank you!

Your child will still bring home the letter sounds (phonemes) covered each week in our phonic sessions. Please note there will be three consolidation weeks when no new sounds will be introduced.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we be looking at the work of Russian artist, Vasily Kandinsky, using his pictures to inspire the children to make their own artwork based on circles. We will also be plaiting bread, making seed collages in the style of Van Gogh and weaving materials. As Christmas approaches we will be busy making Christmas cards and decorations to make our classrooms look Christmassy!

PE

This term our P.E. sessions will be on a Tuesday. The children will be taught by Mr Kiely who is a P.E specialist. The focus for this term will be gymnastics. Please can you make sure your child has their PE kit in school every day. Just a reminder; your child needs:

- ***clearly named house colour t-shirt***
- ***clearly named plain black shorts / leggings***
- ***long hair tied back / earrings covered***

Please could your child have **jogging bottoms** as the weather is now getting colder and they may need to be in PE kit during playtime.

Wellie Walks

Our wellie walks this term will continue to support our classroom learning. There are still some children without wellies, waterproof trousers and coats at school. **Please can you make sure that your child has their wellies/waterproofs in school every day.** Thank you!

Cooking

Over the year the children will take part in a number of cooking activities. This term we will be making bread as part of our Little Red Hen topic and we will be making mini Christmas cakes. Unfortunately we do not have the funds to support cooking projects fully by ourselves. Some funds come from cake day money for these projects but we are sure you can appreciate we would like to put the majority of this money towards buying exciting, new learning resources for the children. Therefore we would be very grateful if you could make a voluntary **cooking donation of £5** (or any smaller donation). This will cover the cost of your child's cooking activities for the whole year. Please put this donation in a named, sealed envelope and give to your child's class teacher. We are very grateful for your support.

The Christmas Production

The Christmas production will take place in the school hall on the **12th, 13th and 14th of December**. The performances will start at **2pm** on each of these days. The performance normally lasts around 40 minutes but we will be able to give you a more accurate running time nearer the event. Since there are 180 children involved in the performance, we have to set a limit of 2 tickets per family. You will need to sign up for the performance you would like to see and the **sign up** sheets will be on the school notice board at the top of the Foundation cloakroom area steps the week before the performances. Once you have signed up, you will be given 2 coloured programmes (a different colour depending on the day you choose). These programmes will act as your tickets. **Please bring your programme with you when you come to watch, you will not be allowed in without it!** Siblings who come to Christ Church will be invited to watch the dress rehearsal on the 7th December and pre-school siblings can sit on your knee. On the day you come to watch, you will be able to take your child home once they are changed out of their costume.



House Groups and Gold Stars

As you know, at Christ Church School all the children are organised into one of four competitive house teams - Gryphon (green), Dragon (red), Pegasus (blue) and Unicorn (yellow). Last term we introduced 'Gold Stars' which the children collect for following our *Golden Rules*. Your child will collect their gold stars in a booklet in school. When their booklet is full of gold stars they will receive a certificate from Mr Baker or Mrs Hann-Perkins and will gain 10 points for their house team. At the end of each term the winning house team is announced.

Parent/Carer Helpers

A number of you have kindly offered to make a weekly commitment to being a parent/carers helper in class. THANK YOU! Your support enables us to provide a richer, more exciting curriculum and we are able to give the children more opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences eg: cooking and gardening. If you would like to volunteer as a helper, you will need to complete a DBS check first – please speak to Mrs Jones in the school office. If your Christ Church DBS is already in place, then we are currently looking for volunteers to help with our cooking this term. If you are able to help with this, then please speak to your child's class teacher.

Tissues

With lots of little noses to wipe, as you can imagine, we do use a lot of tissues!! Therefore we would be very grateful if you could donate a box of tissues to Foundation, these will especially be useful in the winter months!

Cake Day

Friday 10th November is Foundation's first Cake Day and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to support it either through providing or purchasing cakes. Previously we have spent the money raised on number and counting resources, arts and crafts materials and workshops from outside agencies, such as Zoolab. This year we would like to purchase an additional role play area to support our 3 classes and a large easel for our outside area. The children enjoy exploring the role play and outdoor area resources enormously so we hope you will be able to support our cake day.

As ever, we thank you for your ongoing support. We are delighted with the progress the children are making and we continue to be excited about the year ahead!

Best wishes,

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Blankley, Mrs Morling and Miss Martin

Dates for the Diary.

- **Friday November 10th**- Cake Day
- **Monday 11th December** – Dress rehearsal (performing to KS2)
- **Tuesday 12th December** - Nativity performance, please sign up
- **Wednesday 13th December** - Nativity performance, please sign up
- **Thursday 14th December** - Nativity performance, please sign up
- **Wednesday 20th December** - Last day of Term 2. Happy Christmas!!