

# Windmills: Curriculum Information Letter



**TEACHER:** Mrs Tweedley

**LSAs:** Mrs McCall

**Book changing days:** Once children bring home school reading books, these will be changed three times a week (Mon, Wed, Fri). Please send your child's book bag to school every day. We will also visit the school library once a week, where your child will have the opportunity to choose a library book to take home.

**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.

## Autumn Curriculum 'I Can Grow'

**Topics: Autumn 1** - Harvest – growing food, fruit, vegetables and bread, Autumn changes and hibernating animals. **Autumn 2** – Wonderful me, Growing up, My family, Celebrations – Birthdays, Diwali and Christmas, Winter.

*These topics will also be supplemented by the children's interests they choose themselves.*

<b>Literacy</b>	In our daily phonics lessons, the children will be learning new sounds as well as beginning to segment and blend these sounds to be able to read them confidently. Within these sessions the children will be practising the letter formation for each of these sounds. Each week we will 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. <b>The Write Stuff:</b> 'Grandma Fantastic' helps the children to develop their vocabulary. Some of our key texts include 'Jack and the Jellybean Stalk', 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Lost and Found.' When the children are ready, they will use initial sounds to label pictures and record 'feeling words.' Alongside our Write Stuff texts, we will also be reading information books about Autumn, growing things and Harvest.
<b>Maths</b>	This term in Maths we will start by looking at the numbers 1 to 5, 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. We will also be exploring some 2d shapes and where we find these in the environment, comparing size, shape and capacity, using positional language and exploring patterns.
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional</b>	The main focus of this term is to settle the children into school successfully so they feel comfortable within the classroom and the school as a whole. The children will become familiar with the adults who work in our school and will become increasingly confident to share their ideas, worries and achievements. We will also be encouraging the children to talk during group sessions as well as during their child initiated time and to maintain previous friendships as well as creating new and exciting ones. We will also begin our JIGSAW PSHE scheme of learning, exploring the question 'Who am I and how do I fit?'
<b>Understanding of the World</b>	We will be looking at and celebrating the differences and similarities between each other and what makes us unique. We will be sharing our experiences, talking about our families and what is special to us. We will look at how the world around us changes with the seasons of Autumn and Winter, and there will be opportunities to find out about celebrations from different cultures and from around the world. <b>RE:</b> <i>What should we celebrate together? Why do Christians perform nativity plays?</i>
<b>Communication and Language</b>	'Circle time', role play and listening games will be used to develop the children's confidence and their language and vocabulary skills. It is important we allow each child to have their say during circle time and ensure all children are listening to one another. During circle time the children will also be encouraged to ask questions and be curious.
<b>Physical Development</b>	All children will be developing their gross and fine motor skills. They will take part in daily 'Funky Fingers' activities to build the muscles in their fingers ready for writing. Their gross motor skills will also be developed through 'Wake and Shake' and lots of physical outdoors activities. Windmill class will also have weekly PE lessons to ensure they are getting exercise and the opportunity to develop team skills. We will also explore looking after our bodies and healthy eating – tasting different fruits and breads.

<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	The children have access to musical instruments allowing them to explore and create their own music, as well as some more structured music sessions where we can explore instruments and sounds. Children will explore rhythm through rhymes and songs. They will be given the opportunity to use a range of mediums and techniques to create expressive artwork and design models. They will explore different ways to make pictures through printing, exploring colour mixing using pastels and paint and create portraits of themselves and families using different mediums.
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**Possible family visits/ activities which could enrich your child's learning:**

- Visit an allotment or plant some seeds at home
- Go to see a windmill and discuss how windmills were used to grind grain
- Observe changes throughout Autumn and Winter during local walks
- Provide opportunities for children to express their ideas verbally and explore a rich vocabulary through high quality books

**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.
- Download the 'White Rose Maths' 1-minute Maths app. Focus on developing subitising skills.
- Practise fine motor skills, writing their name and forming letter shapes