



Dear Parents,

Well the weather is certainly supporting our Spring theme of Adventures! The last few days have been an adventure for all of us trying to get to work and if the forecast is accurate there are more adventures to come. Thank you to all who helped with getting information to parents quickly and efficiently via the local radio, web-site and 'parent-mail'. I know the latter had its hiccups and the school will be reviewing its position with the company. Please let us know if there were any problems for you in receiving our communications in this way we will be able to improve for the next time.

Headteachers received bad press with their decisions to keep schools closed through the adverse weather. It is not an easy decision to make and has to be balanced with the number of staff who can reach school safely and the safety of pupils and their parents once at school. I have to rely on local weather up-dates and the judgements of staff who live nearest the school. School closure is unfortunate and inconvenient for all.

We would like to start our 'Early Birds Club' two mornings a week. From the last consultation with parents we received responses from two families who wanted to take up the service. Currently this is all we can offer at this time unless we have a greater take up. The cost will be £1.70 and the club will be held in the hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings only initially. Miss Afzal will be on site from 08.00 a.m. to supervise the activities until school starts. The school will review the situation later in the term to determine viability depending on numbers. Meadowcroft although small has always managed to run a substantial number of clubs each term. Football multi-skills and IT clubs will continue among others. We will hold an IT workshop for parents later this half term. I am still trying to find a drama teacher for this popular club and hope to start a science club later in the Spring.

The 'Friends' of Meadowcroft have very generously offered to pay for some music tuition for each class this term. Miss Sarah Burnham will be meeting with the classteachers to prepare her lessons under our theme of 'adventures'. I am hoping that we can develop this link to provide some future private one to one tuition.

Thank you for your patience throughout the 'snowy' conditions.

Geraldine Dowle



Hedgehog Class - Spring Term



Welcome to the Spring Term in Hedgehog class!

The Hedgehog Team would like to thank you all for your help and support during the Autumn Term. We think you will all agree that the children have settled into school well and are enjoying their learning here at Meadowcroft. We would like to continue the morning routine and would appreciate your support in encouraging independence by leaving the children at the door.

During the Autumn Term we gained a new member of staff in hedgehogs. We would like to welcome Miss Afzal to our team. We also have a student teacher with us for this half term, Miss Tyrell.

Our topic this term is 'Mr Big'. This book came as a Christmas present to each child and is full of fantastic learning opportunities. You received a letter at the end of the Autumn Term asking for your help. If anyone in your family has musical ability we would love to invite them into our classroom to share this with the children. We will also be learning about countries around the world and looking at different cultures and beliefs. If you think you could bring this learning to life for the children we would really appreciate if you could spare some time to come into school. Just let a member of staff know and we can arrange a suitable time ☺.

I would like to thank the parents who have been leaving comments about their child's learning in the 'parents' box'. This is such a great help and gives me an insight into the children's learning outside the classroom environment. The box is located by the home readers and even the smallest things can be a great help!

Once the children have settled back into school after the Christmas break we would like to invite parents to stay on Tuesday mornings to share a book or play a game with your child.

See you then ☺

The Hedgehog Team - Miss McAlister, Mrs Carter and Miss Afzal

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Recognising names and using cursive script daily
- Continue daily phonics sessions-using their knowledge to read and write simple CVC words
- Writing letters and invitations
- Listening to stories from adults and audio equipment
- Read and sequence Mr Big and other animal stories
- Using puppets to tell stories - speaking and listening with peers

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Classroom routines - independence
- Working together in pairs/small groups
- Sharing equipment with peers
- Learning together in the role play areas
- Helping peers and adults
- Respecting other peoples beliefs/cultures
- Thinking about those less fortunate
- Talking about endangered animals and what we can do to help - raising money to help them

Creative Development

- Expressing themselves through art in response to different experiences - religious events etc
- Looking at fabrics, creating patterns etc using different tools
- Designing and making instruments - using junk, selecting tools.
- Children mixing and making their own colours, washing tools etc.
- Creating sound pictures from music
- Invite artists into the classroom to model good practice.

Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Continue to say number names in order and recognise numerals
- Begin to count on and back in ones - number rhymes
- Begin to use vocab involved in adding and subtracting (+,-,=)
- Finding one more/one less than a number from 1 to 10
- Measuring - using language such as greater, smaller, heavier, lighter. Using measuring equipment correctly

Physical Development

- Matching movements to music - listening to music from other countries
- Taking part in different countries traditional dances
- Begin to use basic equipment safely - showing the ability to jump off and land appropriately
- Continue to practise ball skills
- Clever fingers activities/brain gym

Hedgehogs 2010



Spring Term

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Places around the world - visitors coming in to answer the children's questions about different cultures and beliefs
- Looking at animal habitats, foods, body parts etc
- Senses: exploring hot and cold - freezing and melting
- Senses: sound and hearing - junk orchestra
- Looking at different religions from around the world. Invite visitors into the classroom

Fox Class

Welcome to the Spring Term and may we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2010.

Attached please find an outline of the work that we will be covering this term. As you can see our work falls under the title "Adventures" and we will be studying the world around us, looking at landmarks and natural wonders. We hope that through this topic your child will be excited and their imaginations triggered to write some thrilling stories.

We are intending to visit Victory Park again as part of our Geography work. This time we will be looking for signs of Spring so we won't be going just yet but keep a look out for a letter. The children really enjoyed last terms visit and it worked very well as so many of you were able to help and kindly picked up from the park so thank you again for your support with that.

As you can see from the long list of names below we have a new member of staff. Miss Durkan is a student teacher and will be working alongside me in class, reading with the children, taking groups and whole class sessions. We are lucky to have her with us until the half term break.

We had to say goodbye to Percy's Hut last term so we are replacing it with a travel agents. Please can you help by getting us some brochures to boost the number I have already or if you know anyone who works for a travel company some posters would be great. Also we are always in need of small yoghurt pots or similar to use as glue pots. Each child will need a shoe box for an art project too. You were so generous with tissues last term that I am sure we have plenty to see us through the worst of the cold weather, thank you for that.

We look forward to learning with your children again this term and as always feel free to come and speak to us if you have any concerns

Mrs Spice, Mrs Rendell, Mrs Feeney, Mrs Penfold and Miss Durkan.

Communication, Language and Literacy.

Story writing

Information texts

Lists, letters, postcards

Speaking tasks

Phonics-blending and segmenting words

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

The Park in Spring

Sound and Hearing

Landmarks and places on maps

Using control equipment-following instructions

Find information, use a word bank, create pictures

Islam-How do Muslims worship God

In what way is a mosque special to Muslims

Christianity-What makes a church different from other buildings

Easter-what do eggs have to do with Easter

Physical Development

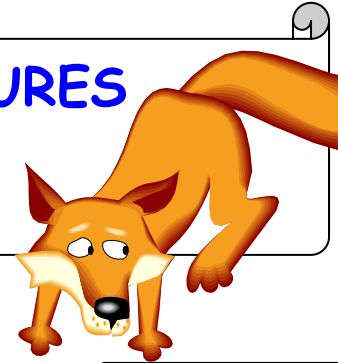
Develop ability to work safely

Develop ability to work at different levels

Use movement to interpret music

Understand the importance of physical activity and the impact it has on our bodies.

ADVENTURES



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Rules

Responsibilities

Managing and dealing with our feelings

Caring for our environment

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Patterns

Sequences

2D and 3D shapes

Positional language

Directions

More and less

Addition

Using number lines

Compare and order numbers

Problem solving money

Creative Development

Create our own world in a shoebox.

Colours that represent places e.g hot cold

Music from around the world

To look at buildings locally and around the world-to discuss features and materials used and why.

OUR SPRING TOPIC

Adventures

Welcome back to Badger's Class, where we work hard and have fun!

Our topic of adventures will begin with a visit to a desert and then to the Polar Regions. We will then have a week on Chinese New Year. After half-term, we will be exploring human beings and life cycles and the children will help me to choose baby names and find out what is needed for a new baby!

Homework, in the form of spellings and maths, will continue every Friday. For the spellings, in the first half of the term we will be focusing on the vowel patterns, such as i-e, igh, ie, i, y which can all make the same sound, as well as the tricky words that they write a lot. Each week I will be monitoring the reading in a group or individually and set comprehension tasks. We will continue show and tell on Mondays.

On the first of February we will be visiting the Mosque in Woking, as part of our RE topic - Islam, with Fox Class and we will be taking part in Science week in March and visiting Brooklands Museum, again, with Fox Class.

We are looking forward to having some new toilets soon and need to be patient while the work is in progress - Please be aware of tools and vans in the playground.

We are always grateful for help in the classroom. Please come and see me if you would like to help in any way. Please continue to stay for reading, maths or science mornings every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Thanks you for your support in school, Mrs Lancashire and Mrs Crump

