

Kingston St Mary Church of England Primary School

Greenway, Kingston St Mary, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8JH

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Owls Class. In order for school and home to work as a team and give your child the best start possible, below is some information about the areas we intend to cover this term. Our chosen topic this term is 'On the Farm'.

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

This term the children will be learning to read and write using a systematic phonics programme called Read Write Inc. The children will be introduced to the 42 main sounds of the English language. They will be taught:

The Letter sounds and their formation using pre-cursive (see letter formations sheet).

To identify sounds in words and use then for writing

To blend letter sounds for reading

To read tricky words (also known as red words)

Our focus books linked to our topic include, The Little Red Hen, Farmer Duck and The Three Little Pigs.

Reading

Your child will be given a reading book over the next couple of days. The books will be wordless to begin with. Wordless books often promote more discussion than books with words, which leads to better comprehension. We tend to focus on, and appreciate, the details in the pictures more in these types of books. They also encourage the introduction of new vocabulary, help develop storytelling skills and present many opportunities to practice writing.

For *pre-readers*, wordless books give them the opportunity to actually read and understand a book all by themselves.

At first it might feel a little strange to sit down to "read" a wordless book with your child but we encourage you to tap into your inner child to give it a go. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Begin by looking at the cover. What can you see? What clues to the story does the cover illustration show?

2. Read the title. Does the title give you any ideas for what the story might be about? Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.
3. Take a picture walk. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures your attention.
4. "Read" the story. You might go first, inviting your child to add to your story as they see fit. Don't be afraid to tell your story with dramatic flair. Add sound effects and interesting voices that suit the characters of your tale.
5. Encourage your child to take a turn telling their own version of the story.
6. Ask questions about the book — which is your favourite illustration? Do you have a favourite part of the story or a favourite character? Can you tell about a time you have felt like the main character or found yourself in a similar situation?

Remember to share your child's reading book each day. We will look at their reading record book daily and change it as needed. Please make a note if you would like to keep the book for another day. Throughout the term, the children also receive key words (known as red words) to learn. Practising these little and often really makes a difference to their reading.

Mathematical Development

The children will participate in daily numeracy activities. They will be introduced to counting amounts up to 10, recognising numbers 1-10, writing numbers 1-10, recognising and describing the properties of 3D shapes, adding 1 by counting on and subtracting 1 by counting back, recognising the passage of time in relation to their day. They will use the language of measure when comparing size and weight and begin to use non-standard units to measure the length, height and weight of objects.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Most of the work will focus around the topic 'On the Farm'. The children will be learning all about the different animals that live on farms and learning to compare the countryside to a city. We will be looking at what it is like to be a farmer and what kind of jobs they have to do.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will experience a wide variety of art materials to produce topic, literacy and mathematical related artwork. They will sing a variety of songs and use the percussion instruments to accompany their singing and take part in baking activities.

Physical Development

The children will work at developing their fine and gross motor skills. Fine motor skills, through using and gaining control of pencils, scissors etc. gross motor skills, through gaining control of their bodies when using large and small apparatus during P.E. and when outside in the outdoor play area. On a Friday the children will participate in a timetabled Physical Education session with Miss Storey. As a school, all children take part in the Golden Mile where they work together to achieve as many miles as they can to compete against other schools. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on Fridays (weathered prepared).

Personal and Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity

The children will be given time to adjust to their new setting and will slowly be taught the rules and routines of the classroom. They will be given time to explore their new surroundings and encouraged to try

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new activities within the classroom. Over the next few weeks we will introduce small adult led and carpet sessions where we will start to focus on different areas of learning. The children will be encouraged to play and work co-operatively and to recognise their own personal strengths and weaknesses.

Pupil Voice

At Kingston St Mary we continue to adapt and improve our school curriculum to encompass the interests and experiences of the children. We believe that asking pupils about what they would like to learn is fundamental to providing an engaging and inspiring curriculum. To help prepare your child for the start of our topic 'On the Farm', please discuss with your child what they would like to learn about during this topic and maybe find out what they already know about life on a farm.

WOW Moments

Please remember to fill out a WOW card for your child for anything that has happened outside of school. For example: Child A has learnt to ride her/his bike without stabilisers. Please hand these in on a Monday and we will read these cards out during circle time and display them in the classroom. Please ask if you would like some more Wow cards.

Wellington boots and wet weather clothes

During all seasons, the children will take part in **Outdoor Learning**. Activities may involve exploring the school grounds, collecting treasures, building a den or simply taking an activity away from the classroom. Please could you send in a pair of Wellington boots and wet weather clothes clearly labelled with your child's name as soon as possible.

We hope you find the above information useful. At Kingston St Mary Primary School we endeavour to build an excellent relationship between home and school which fosters close communication between us all. If you have any questions at this time, please contact us via the school office and we will be pleased to help you further.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs O'Leary & Mrs Robinson

(Owls Class Teachers)