

Curriculum Overview for Year R

First half of Autumn 2019



Polars Class
Class Teacher: Ms Bowes (Mon-Tues), Ms Hilyards (Wed-Fri)
Support Staff: Miss Budd

Pandas Class
Class Teacher: Mrs King (Mon-Thurs) & Mrs Taylor (Fri)
Support Staff: Mrs Taylor (Mon-Thurs) & Mr Nathan (Fri)

Welcome everyone to Bears. It has been a wonderful start to term with lots of happy faces and hardly any tears! All children have quickly settled in to Polar Bears and Panda Bears and we are all really looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the next few weeks.

We would like to invite you to a 'Welcome talk/Curriculum evening' on Tuesday September 17th at 7.00pm **or** Thursday 19th September at 3.45pm. These will take place in the Bears classrooms. Where possible please try to find childcare for your children during these meetings. If you do need to bring your child to the Thursday meeting, please note that children will not be able to play on the playground and there will be no staff supervision.

Morning drop off
Bears' doors open at 8.45am to allow an opportunity for parents to settle their children and pass on any relevant information to staff. Please encourage your children to carry their own belongings into class. This is an optional time to come to school, and parents must stay with their children in the classroom until the bell is rung at 8.57am. When the bell rings, it is time to say goodbye and the children should sit on the carpet ready for their teacher. Should your child be tearful when you leave, staff will be on hand to provide comfort and support. If you choose not to come to the morning sharing time, you will not be able to come in with your child; please drop them off at the classroom door at 8.57am.

Getting to know your children
We will be carrying out informal baseline assessments of all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage for each child. These will be carried out alongside the children in their play and in short activities exploring phonic knowledge, reading skills, writing, counting aloud, counting objects and representing amounts. These assessments will then be collated to provide us with an initial age related starting point.

Topic Books: Owl Babies
The teaching and learning in the Foundation Stage is a balance between adult-led and child initiated learning. We will give opportunities for the children to decide and lead their own learning. We use books and stories as a 'back drop' topic as much of the learning will come from the children's interests and suggestions. We hope to have some owls visit us later in the term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
We are focusing on getting to know each other as a class, following class routines, learning about making new friends, trying new activities and talking about class rules. We are promoting independence and self-care, for example selecting our own resources and putting them away, dressing and undressing, personal hygiene and finding their way around school. We will be learning to make the right choice and how our actions affect others.

Communication and Language
We are learning to listen to each other, in whole class, small groups and with our learning partners. We will also be listening to a range of stories. The children will be encouraged to join in a range of songs and rhymes. To support reading we will be learning to narrate a story using picture clues.

Literacy
As the school year progresses we will have daily phonics sessions five times a week using the Letters and Sounds program. We begin with Phase One activities such as rhyme and alliteration and learning to oral blend and segment simple words, for example cup, dog, pig. During Phase Two the children will be taught to recognise and write individual letters and match sounds.
The children have a daily opportunity to write over their name. We encourage them to use a tripod pencil grip. For those who can write their name we are developing correct letter formation. Reading will begin at first individually and then build up to group reading. **Please bring in books and book bags every day.**

Mathematics
There will be daily mental Maths opportunities for counting aloud forwards and backwards and recognising each number from 0 to 10. Throughout Bears the children will have daily opportunities to explore counting, shape, measure and patterns. We will be describing, copying, extending and creating patterns in number, shape and size.

What can you do at home?
Create opportunities for counting around the house like counting the pieces of a jigsaw as you put it away and counting how many pieces of fruit there are in the fruit bowl, counting a smaller number from a larger group e.g. "Can you put 5 chips on your plate?"

Understanding of the World
The children will have daily opportunities to explore the world around them using a variety of scientific equipment and non-fiction books. We will develop children's learning through their own curiosity and interests. Through our topic book 'Owl Babies' we will be learning about the features of a bird, making observations of animals and talking about changes.

Expressive Arts and Design
In creative development, the children will develop their painting and drawing through various activities linked to the topic. We will focus on combining different materials and learning how to join things together using glue and tape. We are always grateful for donations of recycling for our workshop area. The role play area will support their imaginative play as will the small world and dressing up clothes. Children will have opportunities to listen and respond to a wide range of different music genres.

Physical Development
On a daily basis the children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills.
This half term the children will learn to develop coordination, control, manipulation and movement. They will have opportunities to balance and travel in a variety of ways. Their fine motor skills will be developed through pencil control activities and manipulating various small objects and materials. Children will be learning the importance of hand hygiene and be encouraged to develop independence in self-care.
Changing into our PE kits and more formal PE will begin next term. Please ensure your child has their PE kit on their peg every day, as this provides a useful change of clothes if necessary.

Allotment
Weather permitting, we will go to the allotment frequently. These sessions are a great opportunity for outside learning and caring for the environment. Throughout the year the children will be able to plant and harvest their crops.

Reminders
Long hair should be tied back at all times; this helps prevent the spread of head lice. The only earrings permitted to be worn in school are small studs. Please ensure all bags and items of clothing (including shoes, hats, gloves) are clearly labelled.

Wow Board
We have a 'Wow Board' to share and celebrate the children's wonderful home learning and exciting experiences. You will be offered a paper 'balloon' once a half term for you to share your child's home learning. This will then be put up on the 'Wow board'. You can share these moments anytime, just help yourself to a balloon from the pile next to the board.

Home learning
In the second half of the Autumn term children will bring home a school reading book and a reading diary. We ask that you share the reading book at least 5 times a week. The reading diary is a record of when both school staff and families read with your child. Children will also bring home phonics/letter cards weekly once we move onto Phase 2 of letters and sounds.
Please keep reading books, reading records, phonics and number cards in book bags and bring these to school each day.

Letters
Please put any letters on your teacher's chair or in the wall mounted letter box opposite the school office window. Staff will not go through book bags to retrieve letters.

Please do not hesitate to talk to us should you have any concerns.

Best wishes

Viki King (EYFS leader), Charlotte Hilyard, Carol Bowes, Ann Taylor and Vikki Budd