

Darling Class NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 1 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are happy to begin an exciting new term and new year! This term we welcome Omari to our Nursery; we are very happy to have you and your family join us.

Topic – Light and Dark

This half term we will begin by linking up with our topic from last term, but instead of jobs and occupations we come across during the day, we will be looking at what people do at work through the night. This is a great introduction to thinking about all that goes on around us while we are sleeping. We will then turn our attention to animal activity that might be taking place in our gardens at night and our night sky.

We often have activities, such as cooking and specific crafts, which offer a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to come in to Darling Class to assist with. If you or another family member are interested in helping in this way, please do get in contact.

Some of the texts we will be enjoying this half term include:



Spring Term 1	
Communication and Language	This half term we will be working on class collaborations outside to support children's language and communication through play. We will also be developing the children's ability to talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary. As part of our Oracy Project, children will be encouraged to articulate their thoughts into well-formed sentences, take turns at being a good listener and speaker with their partner, and engage in discussion and debate, from a story stimuli.
PSED	This term in PSED we will be thinking about 'Keeping Safe' and focusing on people who help to keep us safe, staying safe indoors and outdoors, what is safe to go into our bodies and listening to our feelings. We will also be focusing on 'Being our best' and how important it is to look after ourselves, others and the environment.
Physical Development	We will be honing our fine motor skills with regular Dough Disco sessions, Finger Gym activities and using tools in Forest School. The children will also have access to the tricycles and scooters during the week. In PE Nursery children will work towards being creative and moving at different levels in dance, as well as maintaining balance and using their hands and body to stabilise themselves in gymnastics. Reception children will be learning different yoga positions, experimenting with different ways of moving, testing out ideas and adapting movements to reduce risk. Reception children will also master the skills of bouncing, jumping and landing in gymnastics.
Literacy	Nursery children will be sharing and talking about stories, learning nursery rhymes and developing their ability to distinguish between environmental sounds, body percussion, and progressing towards hearing and saying initial sounds in words. Reception children will begin the term learning some 'two letters, one sound', followed by reading and spelling VCC and CVCC words. All children will be encouraged and supported in their mark-making and writing through play as well as working on a class project to add labels, captions and sentences to the picture book 'Flashlight' by Lizi Boyd.
Maths	Nursery children will be developing their subitising skills, reacting to a change in amount, reciting numbers, understanding the cardinal principle, exploring 2D and 3D shapes and combining shapes to make new shapes. Reception children will be learning about number position and ordering, using a ten frame, conservation of number, the part-part whole model, counting by adding on, one more and one fewer, conceptual subitising and number bonds.
Knowledge and Understanding of the World	This half term we will be using our senses to explore light and dark, including shadow play, light sources and environmental sounds we can hear outside and inside. As we move through Winter, we will observe and talk about the changes that we see and the effect this has on the wildlife around us. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the effect of push and pull forces in STEM challenges, noticing the effect of these forces on the distance a car travels, as well as the effect of gravity on a space rocket. In RE children will be sharing their own special books and learning about books that are special to Christians, Muslims and Jews.
Expressive Art and Design	We will continue to learn nursery rhymes and poems, including Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, The Owl and the Pussycat and 'Cold' by Shirley Hughes. The children will have the opportunity to explore the effect of gradually adding black and white paint to colours and observing its effect; using space small world toys and fairy furniture in the woods; shadow art; combining materials and making music.

PE Days

Nursery – Monday and Wednesday

Reception – Mondays and Fridays.

Please ensure that your child comes into school in trainers, and joggers or leggings. Please can you support your child to be independent when taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.

Forest School

This half term we will share stories about night animals, create music in the woods and children will have the opportunity to make hedgehogs, using clay or whittling wood, and take torches into the area to play imaginatively and think about the creatures that we are sharing the space with.

Nursery & Reception children: Forest School will take place every **Wednesday** afternoon, beginning **Wednesday 10th January** (with the exception of Wednesday 24th January, where there will be no Forest School).

Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms. On Forest School days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being outdoors (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts, shorts or dresses), to protect from scratches and bites, including ticks. **Ski trousers, extra socks, hat and gloves** are recommended in cold weather.

We rely on parent helpers to make Forest School possible, without parent helpers Forest School cannot take place. So if you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email darlingclass@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Breen.

Reading

All Nursery and Reception children are encouraged to enjoy books and develop a love of reading and stories. We will visit our fantastic school library each week and children will be encouraged to choose a book to take home to share with you. Library books will be changed on a **Tuesday**. Any Nursery children not attending on a Tuesday will have the opportunity to change their library book on a day that they are in school.

Reception: Please continue to practise the new high frequency words and sounds daily, so that your child is able to keep up as we progress. Please try to read with your child at least 4-5 times each week and record this in your child's Reading Record Book. All Reception children will be read with, and have their books changed, once a week. More information about how you can support your child with reading in the Early Years can be found in the school's Reading Policy.

Items to bring to school

We are trying to minimise what children bring with them to school in order to reduce the amount on children's pegs, which prevents them accessing the items that they need. Children **ONLY** need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag, coat and waterproof trousers. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg.

Show and Tell

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair we will continue to send home the Silver Box with a different child each day.

Wish List

If you are able to donate any of the following to Darling Class we would be very grateful:

- Envelopes (various sizes, including used in good condition)
- Masking tape and sellotape
- Treasury tags
- Felt tip pens and coloured pencils
- Paper (various colours, sizes)

How you can support your child & contacting us:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the class email: darlingclass@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk

For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

Mrs Breen and Mrs Hunter