

Reception Curriculum Themes 2020/21



Autumn Term 1 – Do you want to be friends?

As we begin our journey at Birchwood Primary School, we start by looking at people who help us both inside school and outside in our local environment. We take a tour around the school and meet some of the key members of staff. Once we have all settled at school, we begin understanding the meaning of friendship through our key text 'Have you filled a bucket today?' We then move onto our first Talk for Writing text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' where we discuss families and homes.

Autumn Term 2 – Where do squirrels hide their nuts?

Autumn is coming! Over this half term, Reception will enjoy learning all about the seasonal changes that take place in autumn. We begin by looking at two texts 'The Busy Little Squirrel' and 'Bear Snores On'. We will discuss the word hibernate and animals that do this, as well as some of the changes we will see in our local environment. We then move onto our second Talk for Writing text 'The Little Red Hen' where we think about the importance of harvest, farms and farmers. We will also understand what seeds need to grow. We then finish the half term by exploring and comparing Diwali and Christmas.

Spring Term 1 – Where does snow go?

After our Christmas break, we come back and explore all things Winter. We begin our topic with the key text 'Snowflakes' which has a Personal, Social and Emotional Development focus, thinking about individuality and similarities and differences between our lives and others. We then move onto 'Penguin and the Cupcake' where we have a non-fiction focus, learning and comparing the Arctic and Antarctic. We then move onto our third Talk for Writing text 'We're going on a bear hunt' where we focus on sequencing,

describing and comparing. We then finish this half term with another celebration 'Chinese New Year' and our exciting visit from the Chinese Dragon Dancers.

Spring Term 2 – Are all dinosaurs the same?

Watch out! There is a dinosaur on the loose!! This half term we are exploring all things dinosaurs. After finding some strange footsteps and a nest within our classroom, we use our detective skills and our key text 'Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs' to work out where it has come from. We then move on to the story 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' where we have a non-fiction focus understanding the different dinosaurs, their diets and difference in shape and size. Our Talk for Writing text this half term is 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' where we explore what is needed to build a strong bridge, explore floating and sinking and how the troll is unkind.

Summer Term 1 – Why do ladybirds have spots?

This topic will focus on all things minibeasts! We will explore a range of questions about minibeasts and their habitats. Our key texts include 'Superworm', 'What the Ladybird Heard' and 'Mad about Minibeasts'. We will have a focus on music and rhyme as we learn the difference between minibeasts. We will go on a minibeast hunt and explore their habitats and diets. We will then move onto our Talk for Writing text 'Jack and the Beanstalk' where we will focus on comparing size, growth and right and wrong.

Summer Term 2 – Why do zebras have stripes?

To finish our time in Reception we will take a journey to Africa where we will compare its landscape, weather and animals with those we have in the UK. We will explore the texts 'The Lion who wanted to Love', 'Mama Panya's Pancakes' and 'The Tiger who came to Tea'. We will understand what camouflage is and why it is important. We will then finish with our Talk for Writing text 'Handa's Surprise'. Where the children can sequence, hot seat and create their own version of the story.