

Reception Curriculum Themes 2021/22



Autumn Term 1 – We all belong here

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. Ending the half term exploring the celebration and culture around Diwali.

Autumn Term 2 – Why do squirrels hide their nuts?

Autumn has arrived! Over this half term, Reception will enjoy learning all about the seasonal changes that take place during the Autumn season. 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 'Pumpkin Soup' where we think about the importance of resolving conflicts between our friends. We then finish the half term by exploring Christmas with a magical Christmas themed trip.

Spring Term 1 – Winter Wonderland

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 – Dinosaur Stomp

Watch out! There is a dinosaur on the loose!! This half term we are exploring all things dinosaurs. After finding some strange footprints 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. Our celebration focus for this half term is Easter with a visit to our local church.

Summer Term 1 – The sights and sounds of Africa

To begin our last term 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' and 'Anna Hibiscus' Song'. 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. A historic moment will be celebrated with the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June.

Summer Term 2 – Mad about minibeasts

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' 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 Minibeasts 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. Towards the end of the half term we begin talking about transition to year 1 and celebrate all the things we have achieved on our Reception journey.