

Topics:

The topics we cover are heavily led by the children's interests and usually encompass several areas of learning. For this reason, the topics will change to reflect the direction the children wish to take their learning. This half term we are going to start by looking at what makes us unique, focusing on family, pets and occupations. After the half term we will then be looking at superheroes, seasons and getting lost in Christmas.

Literacy:

This year your children will be learning to read and write using phonics. To start with, we will be reviewing the main objectives of phase 1 from the phonics scheme 'Letters and Sounds' known as oral blending and oral segmenting. These 2 skills are the foundation for all future reading and writing and it is therefore important that we spend time consolidating these skills before we start teaching the children their letter sounds. The skill of oral blending enables the children to push single sounds together so that they can hear whole words. The skill of oral segmenting enables the children to break down words into their smallest single sound components. Over this term both yourselves and your children will be learning a lot of new skills and vocabulary, to help with this, we will be holding a Phonics and Early Reading workshop for parents which will help explain the content of the scheme, new vocabulary and the strategies that we use in school (date below).

Dates for the diary:

25th September- Phonics and early reading parent session 2.00-2.40

9th October- School trip to the woods 9.00-11.00 (Please let Mrs Green know if you would like to support us on the trip- h.heslop@springfield.sch.ie)

24th or 25th October- School trip to the church TBC

Reception Autumn

Home Learning:

At the end of September, all children will start to receive home learning. Every child will have 1 reading book (2 later in the year) which will be swapped on their designated reading day. 5-10 minutes of reading must be completed with your child every night, returning the book and reading diary back to the book bag each night so we can continue to read throughout the week at school.

In addition, there is a homework book which goes out each Friday and must be returned each Friday with a task related to different areas of the curriculum, though this will be predominantly phonics based to begin with.

Please fill out the reading diary once per week and the reading passport daily.

Physical Development:

A large proportion of our time this term will be spent developing our fine and gross motor skills. The biggest focus of which will be on developing the children's shoulder and finger strength and dexterity so that they can master the tripod pencil grip by the end of the year. In class there will be lots of cutting activities and activities that require children to use their fingers such as playdough and threading. During our P.E. sessions, we will be mastering larger, gross motor skills such as travelling around spaces in new and exciting ways, building our spatial awareness and developing our balance.

Maths:

This term will be focused mainly on learning numbers. It is important in the early years that children have a firm understanding of what each number is. To build fluency, we ensure that all children are able to count quantities, count out objects from a larger group, recognise numerals out of sequence, partition numbers into smaller parts, use numbers to solve everyday problems and confidently understand the concepts more and less. Up until Christmas we will be focusing on numbers 1-5. After half term we will also begin to learn the names and characteristics of some 2D shapes and explore measuring size, mass and capacity in different ways.

