



Curriculum Information Sheet Spring Term 2019

Into the Woods!

The focus of 'Into the Woods' is the natural world around us. This topic will be introduced through a visit by The Birds of Prey Centre, where the children will observe some of our woodland birds at close hand. The children will also experience a woodland environment through outdoor discovery mornings in February. The following is a guide to proposed EYFS coverage over the term but we will amend our teaching as necessary according to the needs of the children.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Our theme offers children the opportunity to explore and value the natural world with a focus on respect and care of our environment and woodland animals (e.g. owls, bats, foxes, and hedgehogs). The children will be involved in weekly circle-time discussions and we will continue to develop an appreciation of other cultures through collective story telling. If your child has stories from other cultures at home, we would be more than happy for them to bring them in to school and we will share them with the class. The children will continue to attend whole-school assemblies on a Friday morning.

Communication & Language

The children will become 'woodland experts' on owls, bats, foxes and hedgehogs through listening, discussion and questioning as we explore a range of web information and non-fiction books as appropriate. Daily story telling, including traditional tales with a woodland theme, will encourage children to anticipate key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions and actions. 'Small world' play will be regularly used to develop and broaden children's speaking and listening skills. Language skills will be enhanced further through a weekly French session led by Madame Hawthorne.

Physical Development

The children will focus on fundamental movement skills and spatial awareness in our outdoor areas of the classroom. We will continue to raise awareness of why exercise is important to their physical and mental wellbeing. They will continue to use a range of tools and equipment to develop their gross and fine motor skills across a range of teacher-led and independent activities. The children will continue to develop a correct pencil grip and be offered regular opportunities to practise and develop their handwriting skills using

our cursive script using both the indoor and outdoor classrooms. Our outdoor discovery mornings will support the children in improving their gross motor skills.

Literacy

Children will be heard to read, or practise their sound cards, on a 1:1 basis weekly and their progress will be recorded in their reading diary. A weekly library book will be issued. The children will continue to develop their sight vocabulary (Super Power Words) and phonic skills through daily phonics sessions that are ability streamed across Reception. The children will continue to bring home a weekly 'sound book' which will be issued on a Friday and must be returned by the following Thursday. In this book the children are being encouraged to write relevant sound words using the cursive script or are beginning to write simple sentences with your support. The children develop their independent writing skills through 'have a go' writing sessions where they will be encouraged to write simple sentences on specific subjects relating to our theme of 'Into the Woods!' A variety of mark-making and writing activities will be made available to the children to encourage their independent writing. We would warmly welcome into school any writing that the children have undertaken at home so that it can be shared and celebrated with their class.

Mathematics

The children will practise counting, recognising, recording, comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting, doubling, halving and sharing numbers. They will explore patterns using a range of resources. The children will continue to investigate the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and begin to name them. The children will also focus on simple time recognition and money (coins only). The mathematical vocabulary focus will be on comparative and positional language, e.g. more than/less than, enough/not enough, full/empty, longer/shorter, on, under, in, next to, behind, in front of, above. They will use their mathematical knowledge to solve simple problems in mathematical activities.

Understanding the World

The children will learn about local woodland together with simple facts about owls, bats, foxes and hedgehogs. The children will continue to develop their technological skills through activities on the interactive whiteboard and classroom computers. Should your child display ICT skills when using equipment at home, e.g. on mini-ipads or tablets, please share their achievements on a WOW! sheet in order that we may celebrate their expertise first-hand. The children will also learn about Chinese New Year and the Christian festival of Easter.

Expressive Arts & Design

The children will explore a variety of art techniques such as collage and clay working. Music sessions will be delivered by the class teacher where the focus will be on responding to music and songs. The children will have access to a varied range of resources to encourage and develop their imaginative play both indoors and outdoors.

General Information:

Completion of WOW sheets in the Early Years Foundation Stage



Many parents have made excellent contributions to their child's learning journey – thank-you!

The WOW sheets are always evidenced in your child's 'Learning Journal' and the information we gather from them is a valuable source of evidence when completing your child's personal profile.

Please don't ever feel that an event is not worthy of a WOW sheet, or doesn't exactly fit into one of the areas of learning - we have yet to receive one that hasn't given us a further insight into your child's learning and enabled us to celebrate their achievement!

WOW sheets are always freely available for you to take from the display outside your child's classroom.

Blogs

Every month Mrs Pointon and Miss McKay will publish a class blog for you to access via the school website. To access, go to: www.thehillsacademy.co.uk – News and Events – Blogs – EYFS blog. Our blogs will contain photographs of the children engaged in activities during the week.

Library books:

Library books will be changed on a Friday.

PPA (Teacher's planning time):

Mrs Pointon will take her PPA time on Friday mornings, her PPA will be covered by Mrs Foster and she will be supported by Mrs Pettitt. This cover will also be in place for Friday afternoons.

Miss McKay will take her PPA for the first half of the Spring term on a Tuesday Morning and will be covered by Mrs Hyrmajlo and Mrs Mead.

Reading books/sound cards:

Your child will be heard to read once a week in a focused 1:1 session with their teacher or nursery nurse. During this session new reading books and sound cards will be issued as appropriate. Please encourage your child to have their reading record book and reading book/s in their red book bags at all times.

The reading record book is a two-way dialogue between parents and teachers, so please write and let us know how your reading sessions with your child are progressing, and always feel free to write in here about any queries/concerns you may have about your child's reading.

Friday Assemblies:

Our children will attend the whole-school assemblies on a Friday at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall. Children who have been placed in the 'Gold Book' for work of excellence and children who have been selected as the 'Star of the Week' will be celebrated in this assembly.

The Hills Lower Squirrels Savers Club

Parents and children are invited to join the club and save for school trips, holidays and Christmas! The club is run by Credit Union and the PTA volunteers. You can save as little or as much as you want. Find out more – come along to the main reception area on a Wednesday at 08.20 a.m.

Dates for your diary

Monday	14.01.19	Birds of Prey Visit
Thursday	24.01.19	Well-being and Resilience Open Evening 7.00pm – 8.00pm
Friday	01.02.19	School Disco 5.30pm – 6.30pm
Wk. beg:	11.02.19	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
Monday	18.02.19	Return to school
Wednesday	21.02.18	Class photos
Wk. beg:	25.02.19	Outdoor Discovery Sessions(at school Mon 25 th , Tuesday 26 th , Wednesday 27 th)
Friday	08.03.19	K2 Assembly 9am
Friday	22.03.19	Fuji Assembly 9am
Monday	01.04.19	Parent Consultations 6.00pm – 9.00pm
Tuesday	02.04.19	Parents Consultations 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Friday	05.04.19	Last day of term

SUMMER TERM BEGINS TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2019

Helping your child at home:

- Daily reading/sound practice
- Weekly sound book
- Using different media to find out about the world
- Practise writing numbers 0-10 and then 11-20 and beyond
- Practise simple addition and subtraction calculations
- Practise doubling, halving and sharing numbers
- Look at capital letters alongside their matching lower case letter
- Practise saying both the letter sound and the letter name

Helpful websites to enjoy with your child:

General

http://www.abcya.com/alphabet_matching_game.htm

http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/word_games/alphabet-games/whack-a-mole.html

<http://www.foodchamps.org/activity.php?char=3&name=s&aktiv=fg25.htm&poz=b5d33d>

www.silkysteps.com

www.abc.net.au/children

www.primaryresources.co.uk

www.topmarks.co.uk

Animals

www.owlpages.com

www.thefoxwebsite.net

kids.nationalgeographic.co.uk/kids/animals/creaturefeature/hedgehog/

www.allaboutbats.org.au

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk ›

www.naturedetectives.org.uk

*Thanking you for your continued support!
The Reception team*