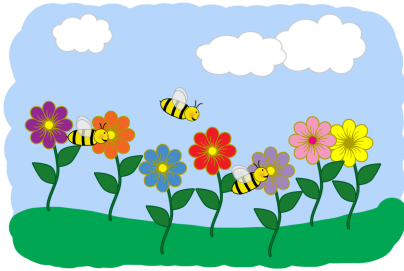




King's Academy Binfield



Spring Term 2023

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you have all had an enjoyable, restful and healthy Christmas break.

The children made such a fantastic start to their time at King's Academy Binfield in the Autumn Term and we are so excited to see them continue to learn and grow through this upcoming Spring Term.

Our Topic for the first half of the Spring term is 'Old Macdonald had a farm'. I know Ruby Class are going to have such enthusiasm as we learn about lots of different types of animals through fiction and nonfiction books, songs and imaginative play. In the second half of the term we will move on to the topic of 'Minibeast mayhem' where we will develop our knowledge and understanding of insects and enjoy many a minibeast hunt!

As mentioned in the Autumn Term, the Foundation Stage Curriculum is split into seven areas and some of the learning opportunities for this term are detailed below. The first three areas (PSED, Communication and Language and Physical Development) are called the Prime areas. These areas are particularly important for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and building a strong foundation for all future learning.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

During this term we will continue to support the children to be independent learners and make their own play choices by selecting and using resources and activities. We will support them to develop their sense of responsibility and community within the classroom and school. We will continue to focus on forming positive relationships with others; sharing, turn taking and listening to each other's ideas. The children have shown fantastic determination and resilience over the last term and we will continue to encourage their perseverance when faced with a challenge and enjoy that wonderful sense of achievement.



Communication and Language

The children will continue to develop their listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills through a variety of activities including whole class carpet sessions, group time, focus activities and free play. We will continue to use the children's love of singing and learn lots of new songs to encourage and support their language skills. There will be a focus story each week to allow children to become familiar with stories and be able to talk about and recall the events. The children will be supported to develop their confidence to initiate conversation and play with their peers as well as contribute their ideas with others as they play. Additionally, this term we will begin having a 'Word of the Week' to introduce the children to new vocabulary which will link to the story or theme of the week.



Physical Development

We will continue to encourage the children to be very active throughout the school day, with lots of opportunities for movement and developing gross and fine motor skills. The children will continue to participate in PE lessons every Tuesday and/or Wednesday in which they will explore different ways to move their bodies as well as joining in with lots of exciting movement games.

There will be endless opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills during play using tweezers, pegs and playdough to name but a few activities. All of these activities are invaluable in supporting children's pre-writing skills. Once children are ready we will support them to use a comfortable tripod grip and develop their control when using writing tools to make meaningful marks and begin forming letters.

The children will continue to be encouraged to develop their independence with tasks such as taking off coats, toileting, undressing/dressing and using cutlery correctly at lunchtime. We were incredibly impressed with the progress they all made in Autumn term, particularly putting their coats on to go outside! Please continue to encourage your child to be as independent as possible with these tasks at home.



Literacy

This term we will continue to foster a love of reading through a variety of exciting stories. The children will listen to stories every day with the whole class as well as having continuous opportunities to read books independently, with friends or in small groups. In phonics, we will begin tuning in to rhyming words through the use of songs and rhyming stories. The children will be playing lots of fun rhyming games, singing funny rhyming songs and developing their general

understanding of rhyming words. Our class library time will continue every Friday, the children have absolutely loved choosing stories to take home each week.



Mathematics

We will be singing lots of number rhymes and using props to develop our understanding of numbers as well as linking numerals and amounts through a variety of games. We will continue to represent numbers using objects or our fingers and will start to encourage children to represent numbers in other ways such as marks on paper. The children will be encouraged to solve real world mathematical problems such as how many children are in our group and how many children there will be if one more friend joins.

The children absolutely loved exploring shape last term. Our magnetic shapes were a big hit as children explored what happened when they joined different shapes together and used a fantastic array of mathematical vocabulary as they talked about 2D and 3D shapes. We will continue to build on this learning by talking about similarities and differences between shapes and selecting appropriate shapes for different activities.



Understanding the World

We will continue to explore outside around our marvellous school grounds. We are very excited to observe any changes as we move from Winter to Spring. The children will be encouraged to describe what we see, hear and feel whilst outside. We will continue to plant lots of exciting seeds in our raised beds in the garden and our Minibeast Mayhem theme will certainly include a lot of outdoor learning and exploring too.

We will look at different celebrations and events including birthdays, Valentine's Day, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Pancake Day and Easter. If your family celebrates a special event, please let us know and we can talk about it in class. If you would like to come into school and share anything about your culture, religion or job with Ruby Class to help better their understanding of the world we would be very grateful and would welcome you with open arms!



Expressive Arts and Design

In our mark making and creative area the children are encouraged to make their own choices about what they would like to make and the resources they would like to use. From paper and card to masking tape and glue to pom poms and feathers. We have seen so many creative children over the last term and cannot wait to see the wonderful masterpieces that are made over the Spring Term. Our fabulous role-play area will continue to be adapted to suit the children's interests and we will keep you updated about the transformations throughout the term. As always, Ruby Class will be heard singing in all we do. Singing is a big part of our day from our good morning songs to tidy up time and everything in between. Many of the children sing as they play which is such a joy to see!

Spanish

We will begin to learn Spanish this term and will start with basic greetings. The children will engage in a variety of interactive and fun activities and songs.



Star of the Week

Every Friday, I will be choosing one child to be the star of the week. This is based on our school's DARE values:

- **Determination**
- **Aspiration**
- **Respect**
- **Enthusiasm**

The children will also be able to collect DARE points for demonstrating these values during the school day – these count individually as well as for their house.

Ted the Bear

Our class bear, Ted, and his diary, will be sent home with the 'Star of The Week' every Friday. Each child will have the opportunity for Ted to stay with them for 5 whole nights! Please return Ted to school on Wednesday. In his diary, your child is free to draw, add photos and create a memorable diary entry which they can share with the class. There is no pressure to do anything out of the ordinary; Ted loves having bedtime stories, having picnics and playing at home too. We are looking forward to seeing Ted's adventures!



Learning Journeys

I know lots of you enjoy seeing what your children have been learning at school via Tapestry and looking at the photos together with your child is a great prompt for eliciting information about their day and learning! Please bear in mind that whilst we love capturing your child's learning as often as we can, our priority is interacting with your child and supporting their learning and development so there may be periods in which you do not see observations as regularly as other times.

Please do continue to post any of your own photographs on Tapestry- we would love to see what the children have been learning at home too and the children are given the opportunity to share their home learning with their friends on our big interactive whiteboard.



I will also share a weekly 'What we are learning' page which will inform you of the themes and learning taking place in Ruby Class. This will enable you to develop and support your child's learning at home as well as prompt conversations about what they are doing at school.

I am very much looking forward to sharing a fun and enjoyable learning journey with the children this year and also working in a supportive partnership with you.

Please do not hesitate to come and ask me any questions, my door is always open.

Kind regards,

Miss Greaney

Nursery Teacher