

Meerkats class



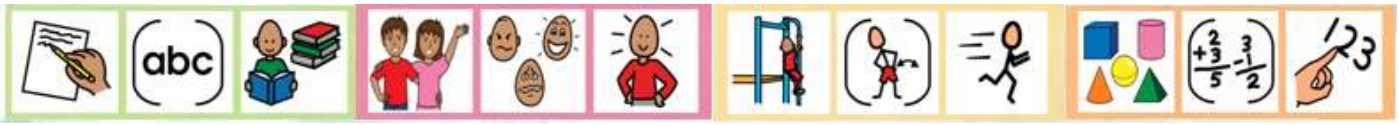
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

We hope you were able to 'Meet the Team' before the holidays. If not, we hope you received the meet the team PPT, sharing lots of information about our class.

A reminder of the Meerkats class team is below.

				
Tina	**Steph**	**Natalie/Karen**	**Nimo**	**Noura LSA**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Space explorers	
Literacy	*Story focus* – Exploring Space by Jordan Garrett *Phonics and reading –* Reading: This term our focus is sequencing the story in sections as we read the story. We will finish the term sequencing the whole story. We will also look at key words of textures within space. This links with our Space topic in Science. Children are at different levels in phonics. We complete sessions daily and focus on one sound each week. *Fine motor skills and writing* We will continue to develop our fine motor skills in individual work boxes at our workstation, planned fine motor skill sessions (including cutting with scissors) and developing these skills throughout each day in a variety of ways e.g. using a spoon and fork at lunch, over-writing/writing name We will focus on pre-writing and writing formation in morning folders, writing our name on our work and writing words of the word of the week in Core Word sessions.
Maths	*Number-* **Mastering number** – subitising to ten – each afternoon for 5 mins alongside number songs ***Addition and subtraction*** We will spend time each day to add and subtract at the end of circle time in the afternoon. This will be done practically and our sessions will start

	using fingers on each hand and bring them together to add and remove fingers to subtract. *Geometry* –shape and pattern. We are starting the term with 3d shapes (continued from Autumn 1) and then onto 2d shapes. We will link the shapes with looking at 2d shapes with 3d shapes. The term will finish with patterns and we will start with patterns sound and movement sequences e.g. clap, stomp, clap
Understanding the world around me	*Science (Materials)* – Materials - What's it like in space? We will be using targeted sensory experiences to help the children bridge the gap between abstract space concepts and concrete reality. We will start this by experiencing dark in a dark den. *Computing* – Digital art. Exploring tools – starting with using the Paint Program to experiment making marks
Expressive art and design	*Music* – Follow genre of the week, sensory choir, songs in circles/subjects *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* –Painting – Using different painting techniques
Physical Education	Gymnastics – Rolling, making shapes on low apparatus
PSHE	Managing feelings
Communication	We adopt a total communication approach. We support pupils in their preferred communication methods, immerse them in text and symbols in their learning environment and work with SaLT on personalised approaches and programs for individuals. Pupils will be exposed to core vocabulary through the core word programme, with the aim of improving their functional language use and application and transference across difference activities. Every morning we have Core Word sessions that last 15mins. This session has four parts to it. We start with engaging the children. At the start of Autumn 2 is the Core Word 'poorly'. We will start the session by regulating and engaging the children. The children will get wrapped up in a blanket and given a soft toy to cuddle. This is something that might be done when we are feeling poorly. The second part is showing them the equipment they will need. For 'poorly' they will put visuals onto a body outline – Velcro to outline. The visuals will consist of visuals of parts of the body feeling poorly. They will then match with what will help them to feel better e.g. plaster on a grazed knee, ice pack on a bumped head and hot water bottle on a sore tummy. The last part is encouraging them to tidy up before they come back to circle to show their work. We do the same each had to consolidate the word and develop understanding of that word.



Other things to know about your child's weekly learning experiences



We will continue to get to know our new young people, developing relationships between staff and pupils. As we navigate our new environments, we will practice transitioning safely to lots of new resource spaces across school. We'll use this as an opportunity to use communication strategies to support these motivational transitions.

As the weather is getting wetter we would appreciate if you could send in waterproofs and wellingtons so the children can go outside.

On **Thursdays** we will continue swimming. Please could you send in their swimming costume/trunks and a towel.

Please ensure you send your child with a named water bottle and snacks for the day. A polite reminder that we are a nut free school. We would really appreciate if you could send a set of spare clothes into school and wellies if your child has them.



Ways to help at home

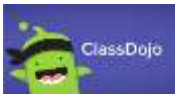


Here are a few ways to support your children in their learning at home in fun and engaging ways.

1. **Literacy Focus Story: Space Adventure by Jordan Garrett**
   Space song e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wE0qcTPGCVs
   Key words: colour, dark, quiet, spin, orbit, planet, comet, bumpy, solar system
   Please request for visuals to be sent home
2. **Maths Focus: This half term we will be focusing on the language:**
   3d shapes focus: cube, cone, sphere, cuboid, pyramid
   2d shapes focus: square, circle, rectangle, triangle
   Pattern focus: repeat
   Addition and subtraction: add, total, subtract
   Please request for visuals to be sent home
   Counting songs relating to space
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO1GV4qUxgE
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfyVPTuikiI
   Counting back songs e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZw9veQ76fo
   Space related: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op87OzHq3Bk
3. **Communication**: Please continue with the communication skills at home through choice making and following instructions in the best way for your child. We can send home any particular visuals your child might need. We will be sending home alaminated core word board to support communication between home and school. Try using it during everyday activities and play e.g., pointing to “more” when your child wants more of a favourite toy/activity.



Keeping in touch





Please look out for daily updates on Class Dojo about what your child has been learning in class. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the class team or cohort lead, **Dani March/ Ania Skolik Wieczniak**

