

Autumn Term Curriculum Review – Reception

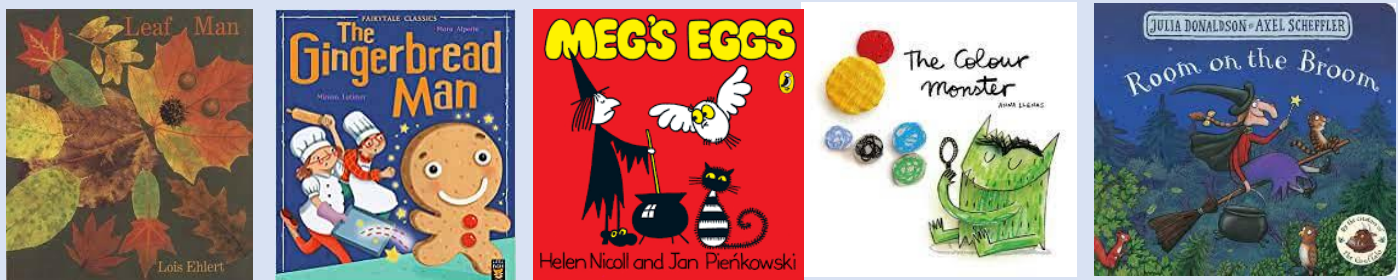


We have been such busy bees! The children in Reception have settled superbly and are now well and truly letting their little characters and personalities shine! They have picked up our daily routines so well and understand our high expectations too. We have been focusing lots on listening and attention too and trying hard to become respectful listeners, following instructions first time. We are becoming superstars with tidying up our continuous provision and the children now know what belongs where, allowing them to access our resources independently.



Our short, snappy daily phonics sessions have been working well and we have now covered all of our Set 1 sounds. Daily assessments and observations mean that we know those children who can recall all of these sounds with confidence and those that need some further consolidation to recognise these speedily. We have done lots of activities around oral blending, which involves using 'Fred talk' and tuning in our listening ears to hear the words. Please don't worry if your child is not bringing home a reading book with words for them to read just yet. Reading is not a race and they will all get there. As always, lots of reading at home really supports your little one's progress and immerses them in new words too. I love to see your purposeful comments in their reading records.

In Literacy, we have explored a range of books, including Shark in the Park, The Gingerbread Man, Leaf Man, Room on a Broom, Meg's Eggs and The Colour Monster. The children have produced some lovely pieces of work too and have shared their valued thoughts and ideas about the books that we have enjoyed together. They have loved listening out for rhyming words and sequencing stories too!



In our maths learning, we have been looking closely at numbers to 5 and how to make these numbers in different ways. The children can confidently recognise these numerals too and enjoy showing me these quickly with their fingers, our number fans and with cubes! We have also explored repeating patterns, creating our own, describing them and continuing my patterns too. The children really enjoyed creating their own shape pictures and are beginning to recognise most simple 2d shapes now. Our beautiful Christmas cards allowed us to explore length and use lots of everyday language to compare the lengths of Christmas wash tape. Everyday mathematical vocabulary is used continuously in the provision, from measuring and capacity in the water area, to lining



up in height order and chatting about the days of the week during registration.

Predominantly, this term has been all about getting to know our children inside out. Through our observations, daily back and forth conversations and playing alongside them, we feel that we are really getting to know each and every one of them. It has been lovely to see the children re-enact their own life experiences in our home area, build intricate models in our construction area and making marks, writing and drawing. Some of the livelier characters have loved being physically active outside, building with our larger wooden blocks, developing core strength and balance on our balance bikes and making challenging obstacle courses with ramps! Our RE learning has linked well to this too, as we have been thinking about being special and belonging. Learning all about our families was great and the children really enjoyed sharing who lives in their house and who is special to them and why. We chatted lots about families being different and that as long as we feel loved, it really doesn't matter!



We have really loved exploring our school and our school grounds. We have been learning all about the changes we notice during Autumn and Winter, looking at leaves, talking about the weather and exploring the ice! Our calendars have allowed us to explore the different seasons and share our knowledge about what happens throughout the year.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth allowed us to explore significant moments and understand events that have happened in the past and how these can change what happens in our futures. The children were keen to discuss our new King Charles and they thought about what they might do if they were in charge!

During PE, we have played lots of team games as the Reception and Year 1 children have been getting to know one another. We have focused on fundamental skills including balancing, throwing and catching, hopping, skipping and using our bodies to create different shapes and movements. We have really enjoyed yoga, where we have been learning some basic positions for balance and core strength and our breathing techniques....namaste.



Primary school allows for such wonderful, enriching activities too and this term has been jam packed! The children loved raising money for Children in Need, with some enjoying candy floss, hot chocolate and a lively disco! They have also been visited by Darlington police and their very helpful dog Ben, to learn all about how police help to keep us safe and what to do in an emergency. Christmas has been a very busy time, as they have worked collaboratively with Class 2 to produce our nativity, 'Hey Ewe', joined in with the Santa Dash and joined in whole heartedly with Christmas parties, learning that sometimes we win and sometimes...we don't! They were fantastic on our recent outing to the



pantomime, joining in with the repeated phrases, dancing and singing!

I am exceptionally proud of how the Reception children have settled and they are now most definitely part of our High Coniscliffe family. After Christmas, we will be continuing to encourage more independence, embedding a love of reading as always, instilling our expectations and playing a plenty!

Have a very happy Christmas. Enjoy some festive fun!

We can't wait to see what 2023 has in store!

From Miss Todd and Miss Forster.