

Woodpecker Hall Academy Learning Web – Reception Spring 1

Force for positive change:

Showing our gratitude to those who help our local community by sending thank you cards.

Key dates:

9th – 13th February – Children’s Mental Health Week
13th February – INSET Day

Communication and Language:

This term, the children will take part in a variety of Circle Time conversations about fairness, helping others, and learning about important people from the past. We’ll also chat about different types of transport—such as walking to school—and explore what each child enjoys, what they’re good at, and what they hope to do in the future. These activities support their understanding of the inspiring people they’ll learn about in our Learning Journey topic – Amazing People.

To build their vocabulary, we’ll play fun and engaging games like “Splat the Word,” “Say It Loud, Say It Proud,” and use magnetic letters and picture cards to help new words come alive.

Personal, Social Emotional Development

This half term, we’ll be focusing on kindness and sharing.

The children will take part in team games, board games, and activities that help them build new friendships. We’ll also learn about tooth brushing and oral hygiene, talking about why looking after our teeth is so important. In addition, the children will practise mindfulness using simple “Take 5” breathing exercises to help them relax and manage their emotions.



Physical Development

To support fine motor development, the children will use one-handed tools and enjoy ‘dough disco’ activities with playdough. For gross motor skills, they’ll have opportunities to climb, jump, jog, and explore an obstacle course in the climbing-frame area, helping to build strength and coordination. In PE, the children will be learning to use rackets, bats and balloons.



Literacy

This half term, we will be exploring the stories *The Gingerbread Man* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, as well as looking at children’s recipe books to introduce non-fiction.

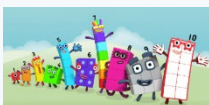
In early reading, we’ll continue with daily Read Write Inc. phonics sessions, focusing on sounds such as m, a, s, d, and t, alongside ongoing 1:1 reading.

For writing, the children will use the 5 Finger Story Retell method, have chances to create their own stories, and learn how to write simple instructions—such as how to bake a gingerbread man.



Maths

This half term, the children will be learning to say number words in order from 10 to 15. They’ll practise counting objects, sounds, and actions, and begin to understand that the total stays the same even if items are moved around. We’ll also introduce simple addition up to 10, using symbols and easy equations (for example, $2+1=3$). They will begin to use manipulatives to represent and recall number bonds to 5.



Expressive Art and Design

This half term, the children will be busy creating! They’ll paint pictures of their future selves, make collages, and design thank-you cards. As part of our D&T work, they will model with playdough and clay, bake gingerbread men, and help build a “big bus of kindness” for imaginative role-play. In Music, the children will listen to and recognise familiar songs, learn new ones, and join in with actions. They will also practise playing instruments, keeping a steady beat, and performing a small repertoire of songs.



Understanding the World

This half term in History, we will be learning about amazing people such as Marcus Rashford, Mary Seacole, Rosa Parks, and Amelia Earhart. The children will explore who these individuals are and why they are remembered. We’ll discuss the question, “What makes someone amazing?” to help the children think about qualities like bravery, kindness, and fairness. We will also talk about equality and celebrate the diversity within our multicultural class.

Spanish

In Spanish the children will be learning to recall prior learning of numbers and greetings, to describe colour, to identify police, firefighters, doctors, postal workers, teachers and their workplace.



