



St Thomas More RC Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage

Tuesday 21st January

Dear Parents,

Miss Riley has secured a brand new role in Rochdale with the Looked After Team, this is an exciting and new opportunity for her and we wish her luck as she leaves on Friday to start her new job.

We are so lucky in our Outstanding Early Years department to have a knowledgeable team of professionals, in order to maintain the excellent provision provided in the Nursery, Miss Young will now be the Nursery lead. Many of you will know Miss Young as she has been a member of St Thomas More team for 8 years, and mostly in Early Years. She has been in the Nursery since Christmas getting to know your children and Miss Riley has written a detailed transition document with up to date information about your child's development.

Miss Young would like to introduce herself...



Hi I am Miss Young, I have been a part of the St. Thomas More Early Years team in both the Nursery and Reception classes for many years. I am very passionate about Early Years education and alongside working at St. Thomas More, I have successfully completed my BA (Hons) Early Years Childhood Studies degree. During my time in the Nursery so far, I have been getting to know your children and developed positive relationships with them. I am looking forward to starting our new Nocturnal Animals topic and have attached the 'What I am Learning' curriculum overview document for your information.

The team are looking forward to an exciting rest of the year, whilst wishing Miss Riley well in her new role.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Butterworth

Head teacher

Miss Young

Nursey lead


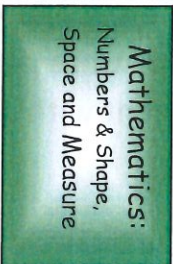




Miss Barran

EYFS Lead

St Thomas More R.C. Primary - Nursery

What I am Learning - Spring 1: Nocturnal Animals

Text: 'WOW! SAID THE OWL'

Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
 <p>Communication and Language</p>	<p>This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through circle time activities and during our carpet time discussions. We will be encouraging the children to listen to one another's ideas and talk about their own. We will be talking about our topic 'Nocturnal Animals', and we will be focussing on the text 'WOW! SAID THE OWL'. Through our text work we will be discussing our own feelings about night time and the dark.</p>	 <p>Mathematics: Numbers & Shape, Space and Measure</p>	<p>In our Maths work, we will be focussing on recognising and ordering numbers, counting to 20 and creating patterns. We will use familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns. We will also be looking out for patterns in the environment. We will be continuing to sing number songs to keep Maths enjoyable and fun!</p>
 <p>Physical Development</p>	<p>We will be continuing to focus upon developing the children's fine and gross motor skills through different activities both indoor and out. We will also be continuing to participate in our Write Dance sessions weekly. Write Dance is an exciting music and dance approach to develop the skills needed for writing.</p>	 <p>Understanding the World</p>	<p>We will be discussing and exploring 'Nocturnal Animals' and our small world area will be set up to reflect this. We will be encouraging the children to develop their understanding of the topic through class discussions, sharing information and through topical activities. We will explore weather changes, day and night and use our own 'dark den' in the classroom to experience the dark together. We will also be exploring the different types of Nocturnal Animals and explore why they are night animals.</p>
 <p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p>We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will also continue to model positive friendships and behaviours and will do some of this through circle time activities. Using our text 'WOW! SAID THE OWL' we will explore different feelings and emotions of the characters.</p>	 <p>Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<p>We will be experimenting and exploring colours using different materials and creative techniques linking to our text 'WOW! SAID THE OWL'. We will also be painting using a wide range of colours to create our own owls, butterflies, rainbows and stars, again linking to our text 'WOW! SAID THE OWL'.</p>
 <p>Literacy: Reading & Writing</p>	<p>We will be sharing books linking to our topic 'Nocturnal Animals' and in particular focussing on the story 'WOW! SAID THE OWL' which we will be basing our Literacy work on. This will include: making predictions about the story, mark making and exploring the colours and weather. We will also be describing the Owl and we will be discussing what happens in the story.</p>	 <p>Outdoor Provision</p>	<p>We will continue to access our outdoor area on a daily basis, and our wider school grounds as much as we can. Linking to the topic we will explore the outdoor areas to find places for Nocturnal Animals to live. Please send children to school with appropriate outdoor clothing.</p>

*When working on our text, we always try to select a story that the children may not have seen before we do not read the whole story initially. We work on the text over the course of the half term, and unpick each section, our focussed activities and challenges are based upon the part of the story we are working on to keep an element of surprise and suspense. If you do wish to read the story at home with your child, please could you do so once we have completed our topic and text work, thank you.