

Let's investigate



This term children will have their curiosity ignited and experience the wonders of experimental science. Alongside our child-initiated learning, children will have opportunity to observe, discover and explore the properties of materials, changing of state, eruptions, light and dark, shadows, floating and sinking and changes over time.

Communication and Language:

Talking focus- Talking about changes / Taking turns in discussion

This half term children will be introduced to and immersed in a wide range of new vocabulary- they will learn the meaning of new scientific words and have real life opportunities to practise using these. Staff will teach and observe the characteristics of effective learning and through these encourage children to make links in their learning, connecting their thoughts and ideas to actions. High quality texts will be used to engage children in scientific thinking and they will have opportunity to act out and retell stories, using the language from texts and their own words and ideas.

Personal, social and Emotional:

Social focus- understanding others

**Key themes: School value- Curiosity
Resilience when faced with problems, Ambitions
Reach for the Stars! Overcoming Adversity, Chinese New Year**

This half term children will be continuing to build on the social and emotional aspects they have already covered, revisiting feelings and how we express and understand these, what a good friend and a member of our school community looks like, and continuing to grow as independent and determined learners. The value of curiosity for this half term will be taught through lots of different scientific experiments and high-quality texts that will engage the children's inquisitive nature as young scientists. Children will be taught to identify and moderate their feelings socially and emotionally for example, sharing a popular toy, solving a problem with a friend.

Physical Development:

Children will be continuing to develop their gross motor movements this half term, using and improving the fundamental movement skills like- rolling - crawling - walking - jumping - running - hopping - skipping - climbing.

Fine motor development will continue to be a focus and children will be exposed to and encouraged to use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently, including- pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.

Expressive Art and Design:

This half term children will continue to develop their understanding of different materials and their properties and how they can use and apply these within their art work. They will look at colour, shade, natural art, collage, printing and environmental art. The focus of the half term will be singing, dance and music, and children will be encouraged to explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in small groups. Small world set ups linked to key text will be used by adults to model developing a storyline in pretend play. Independence and freedom of expression will continue to be a focus and children will choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. Children will develop their own ideas through experimentation with diverse materials, e.g. light, projected image, loose parts, shadows, water play etc



Key events and experiences

Weekly science experience / experiment
Chinese New Year celebration
Scientist of the day

Parental engagement

Story telling session
Shared science experiments

Literacy:

A range of non-fiction and fiction books will be used to support children's learning and engagement with scientific principles. We begin our topic with 'A scientist like me' and our children becoming little scientists. Enquiry based exploration such as 'can baby bear breathe on the moon?' in Whatever Next, 'Who sank the boat?' and what do we know about our own shadows after reading 'my shadow'? As we move through the Literacy and Read Write Inc curriculums children will need more opportunities to use and apply their sounds. Shared story writing with staff will be one of the ways, but we will also model and explore adding labels, making predications and recording our thoughts like real scientists do. With support we will learn some of our high frequency words and some tricky red words.

Maths:

As we continue through the Maths No Problem curriculum children will continue to explore their mathematical thinking, using and applying numbers and learning how to add and subtract. children will be encouraged to explore and work out mathematical problems, using signs and strategies of their own choice. Children will also build on prior learning and develop their understanding of concepts such as repeating patterns, 2D and 3D shape, and comparing and contrasting different lengths, weights and heights.

Understanding the World:

This topic is all about how we explore the world around us and beyond...! Children will develop their knowledge on a range of key concepts like... Earth being a planet and the sun being a star. Different materials and the shadows that they make. Exploring and explaining how things work and different things that we push and pull and what this means. Children will explore and observe and magnets and how they attract different objects. We will continue to observe the changing seasons and what happens as we move from Winter to Spring. Scientific enquiry will expand the children's experiences and they will learn, use and apply new vocabulary and concepts within a range of different contexts. Children will be encouraged to talk about some of the things they have observed, question why things happen and give explanations with support.