

Leopard Class Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn Term 2023
School Theme: Movers and Shakers



As our new term starts, we would like to welcome you back to Leopard Class, introduce the people who will be teaching and caring for your child and explain a little about what we will be covering this term.

The staff in Leopard Class are:-

Mrs Caroline Stevens – Teacher

Miss Sharon Darby - Teaching Assistant

Mrs Nina Potts – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Uzma Bibbi – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Helen Dade – Teaching Assistant (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Mrs Emma Harrison – Teaching Assistant (Thursday, Friday currently on maternity leave)

Mrs Kim Dalloway – SEN Support Worker (9.00 – 3.00)

Mrs Leanne Price – SEN Support Worker (10.00 – 2.00)

Multi Sensory / Early English:

We are following the Little Wandle Phonics programme in class, and every pupil will have 15 minutes each day dedicated to phonemic awareness and learning.

Our English lessons will follow a sensory based activity approach, and be supported by each child's preferred method of communication. We will be using signing, on body signing, objects of reference, symbols, switches, pictures and ALD's (Aided Language Displays).

Children will have regular access to stories told through reading, animation and through sensory experience. Our set books will be supplemented by additional, related texts for reading for pleasure and enrichment purposes.

This term we will be covering the texts:

Narrative: Myths and legends: 'My First pop Up Mythological Monsters'.

We will explore each page and each monster! We will watch related stories and read related books for some of the monsters. We will focus on the Dragon and Medusa for more sensory activities and focussed stories and story telling.

Non Fiction – Instructions: ‘Materials’.

We will look at each page of the book. We will explore lots of different materials and their qualities and purposes. We will be following instructions to make a lava lamp, and we will make some junk models too. We will be learning how to sort and recycle materials, and about the recycle symbol. We will be mark making with and on different materials.

Shape Poetry: ‘The Tree’.

We will learn about what a shape poem is and engage in lots of sensory activities related to trees, and plenty of mark making within the theme. To supplement this, we will also look at other shape poems, and make one of our own.

Multisensory / Early Maths:

Number: We will be engaging in lots of games and activities where we experience amounts. We will count objects, movements and sounds. We will experience numerals associated with amounts. We will explore changing amounts, including increasing and decreasing.

Measurement: This term we will explore tall and short, and long and short. We will explore ranges of measurements through exploration and through making our own objects of different heights and lengths. We will also be learning about money. We will explore different coins and notes and begin to sort them with help. We will use purses, wallets and money boxes. We will also engage in shopping activities.

Multisensory / Early Science Work: Our theme this term is My Body – How to keep it healthy.

We will be learning about our large body parts and will engage in the Physibods programme. We will be learning where these body parts are and what they are called. We will engage with activities involved in the use of our body parts e.g fingers for fine motor tasks. We will be learning about the importance of exercise, and engaging in exercise activities. We will learn about keeping clean through washing, and cleaning teeth. We will also learn about medicines and the role of doctors and nurses to help keep us healthy and well. We will learn about staying safe, and what happens if you have an accident. We will also learn about nutrition for growth and health.

Physical Development: We will have access to the gym once a week, and will be focussing on dance moves and dance equipment, based on a range of music genres. In class we will focus on our fine motor skills and will engage in activities such as: dough disco; threading; using switch and activity toys, mark making, filling and emptying containers and using tools of different sorts for their

intended purpose. We will have opportunity to engage with hydrotherapy on Friday mornings, so please ensure your child has their swimming kit. We will also have regular opportunity to access 'Bikes on the park'.

Multisensory / Early PSHE: We will be focussing on activities that help our 'Self Esteem' and develop our 'Personal Strengths'. We will explore 'All about me' projects, including making a picture based on mirror work. We will explore our own special places within our family and school. We will look at friendship and what it means. We will also study what we like, and what we are good at in a range of different subjects and situations.

Multisensory / Early Computing: This term we will be term we will be exploring the use of IT for our daily lives. We will use switches to operate tools in the cookery room. We will also use switches to help our communication. We will use the white board to make choices to enhance our enjoyment of music and stories. We will also be using computing skills to develop our awareness of cause and effect. We will use the magic carpet to activate programmes with our hands and feet. We will have access to the eye gaze to activate programmes with our eyes. Programmes on the touch screen will be available to choose from. We will use Bee Bots to develop our programming skills with help. We will also have opportunities regularly to use switch based toys.

Creative: This term we will be engaging in the study of geometric art, and focussing on the work of Gabby O'Connor. We will build up to making our own class large sculpture to portray a great iceberg! There will be a variety of types of mark making in different materials and with different tools. We will also be using junk modelling techniques. For the design technology aspect of creative work we will be designing and making our own picture frames.

Multisensory and Early Cooking: all of our cooking activities will be vegetarian. We will exploring foods, tools and techniques to make a whole range of goods, some of which will be linked to other areas of the curriculum. For example, we will make ships biscuits to link in the World Explorers, and fruit rocket skewers to link in with Space Explorers.

Discovery: This term we will be studying Significant Explorers, including: Ernest Shackleton; Christopher Columbus; Sir Francis Drake; Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We will have lots of sensory activities based on where these people went, how they got there, what they saw, smelled, heard and felt. We will find out what they discovered! We will also have Sensology programmes based on

these expeditions.

Sensology and Tac Pac: This term we will have weekly opportunities to engage in Tac Pac and Sensology. Our Sensology sessions will be based on our significant explorers experiences. We will engage with Autumn and Christmas/Winter Tac Pac.

Home Learning: you will be receiving the home learning choices for your child to access throughout the term. Some of the activities are linked to the themes for this term. Please send their lovely work to school for us to share.

Links with home: Communicating with families remains a very important aspect of our work and we welcome any communication into school from home. We will share daily information via the School Life App. We will share some of your child's work with you via Evidence for Learning App. Our class email address is TLeopard@old-park.dudley.sch.uk Please do not hesitate to telephone school if you would like to speak personally to your child's key worker or teacher.