

Autumn 2021 Curriculum Newsletter

Giraffe Class

As our new year starts, I would like to welcome you to Giraffe 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.

Staffing

The staff in Giraffe Class are:-

Miss Lizzie Addy – Teacher
Miss Amy Rodgers – Teaching Assistant
Miss Maddy Hill – Teaching Assistant
Mrs Amanda Brettle – Teaching Assistant
Miss Karen Butcher – Teaching Assistant

We also have our SEN Support Worker Mrs Nicki Fox who helps us at lunch times, play times and with personal care.

Learning and development

The learning and development in Giraffe Class is delivered through our 'Learning to Play' curriculum involving sessions focused on My Communication, My Thinking, My Wellbeing, My Body and My World.

Each day is structured so that we have set daily routines, play, adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Focus for this term

Our whole school theme for this term is **Time Travellers**. We will be focusing on the Great Fire of London, as well as the Gun Powder Plot as events in history.

In Early English we will be reading the 'Gingerbread Man' and 'How to Wash a Wooley Mammoth' stories, as well as learning about different action rhymes and poems. In Early Maths we will be focusing our learning around the rhymes '1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive', '10 Sizzling Sausages'

and '10 Currant Buns'. We will be learning about 'Animals, Plants and the Environment' in Early Science, exploring different habitats such as jungle, sea and polar. Our Phonics Awareness sessions we will be exploring SATPIN sounds, as well as focusing on developing Letters and Sounds Phase 1 skills. Our Early PSHE session focusing on identifying and expressing feelings.

Our timetable and learning opportunities

PE

On **Thursday** we will be using the gym for our PE sessions.

Please send in **shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps or trainers** (all labelled with your child's name) for this.

Forest school

Giraffe Class will be accessing the forest school area for outdoor learning **Tuesday**.

Please send in appropriate **outdoor clothing**, for example wellies, waterproofs, spare trousers and t-shirt, hats, gloves, sun hats etc. Again, everything needs to be labelled please. Please only send in clothes that you are happy to get muddy during our sessions.

Soft Play

We will be using Soft Play at school on **Monday and Thursday**.

Music Man

Del the Music Man will be coming into Giraffe Class on a **Wednesday** morning.

Rebound

Your child may have the opportunity to experience Rebound sessions on the trampoline during the term. We may also use the smaller trampette.

Other Specialist Rooms / Areas

As a class, we will also have the opportunity to visit and use the facilities in different areas of our school including the library, computer room, sensory room and the group room.

Working with school

Home-school sheets

The home-school sheets sent home daily are the main source of communication between home and school. On these we write daily about the activities we do in school, any major achievements, how your child has been throughout the day, what has happened regarding personal care and lunch etc. Please return the bottom of the daily slip if you have anything to inform class about.

If you have any exciting news we would love to hear from you! Please feel free to email our class email address – Tgiraffe@old-park.dudley.sch.uk

Additional information

Snack time

Please send in healthy snack items for your child such as fruit or yoghurt etc. Milk and water will be provided by the school. Please make sure that any lunch bags or containers are clearly marked with your child's name.

Spare clothes

Please send in a change of clothes and spare shoes for your child, in case they are required throughout the day – ensuring that they are clearly named. Even with our small class size, it is very difficult to identify which clothes or items belong to which child!

We look forward to working with you and seeing your child develop and progress.

Miss L Addy