



UNDER THE SEA

SPRING TERM 1: 2023

Squirrel Class

UNDER THE SEA

This half term our topic is 'Under the Sea'. We will be learning all about the deep blue sea and exploring the wonderful creatures that live in our oceans and seas. Our topic will also be used as a vehicle for some of our specific areas of learning with plenty of 'Under the Sea' themed literacy and maths opportunities.

The children will continue to work on all of the skills and knowledge that they have learnt in the Autumn term and building upon these skills as well as working on their individual PDP goals. We will continue with bucket time to develop children's listening and attention skills and will be introducing 'Dough Disco' this half term to develop fine motor skills.

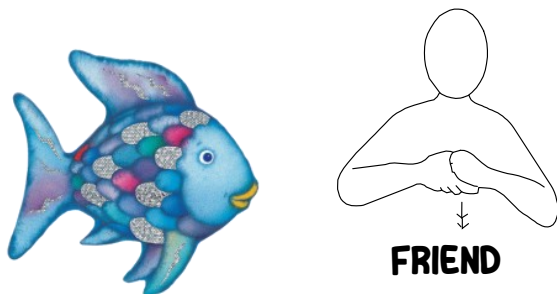
We are looking forward to creating some beautiful artwork and learning all about a wide variety of music genres through our sensory exploration sessions.

PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This half term we will be looking at how we can develop our relationships with our peers. We will be encouraging the children to play collaboratively and alongside the other children in class, where possible. The children will begin to learn and understand about sharing in a range of contexts and environments.

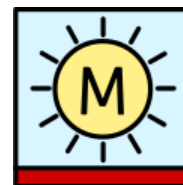
Our books 'The Rainbow Fish' and 'Sharing a Shell' will help the children with their understanding of how sharing with our peers can be very enjoyable and make us feel happy.



Communication and Language

We will continue to work on our listening and attention skills through Bucket Time where our focus will be 'Under the Sea'. This provides us with lots of opportunities for sensory play using a range of resources from sand to water and hair gel.

We will also be enjoying our 'Sensory Days' every day. Each day will have a specific colour, smell, feel and music genre. We will learn the Makaton signs and symbols for the days, colours, smells and music types.

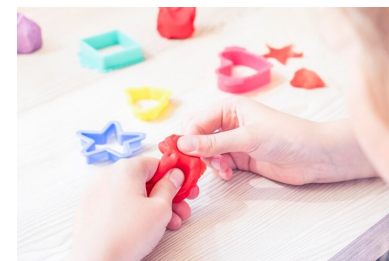


MONDAY

Physical Development

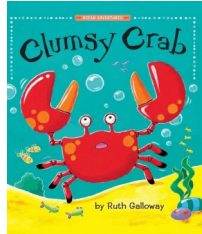
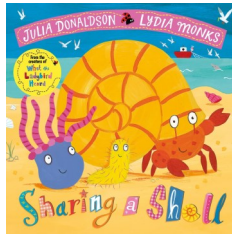
This half term we are introducing the children to 'Dough Disco'. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to strengthen the muscles in their fingers and develop their fine motor skills. Each day they will manipulate their own ball of PlayDoh using their hands and fingers whilst listening to some engaging music and nursery rhymes.

The children will also work on their gross motor skills this half term when we explore the soft play area, enjoy more parachute games with Dormouse class and work on our kicking skills (where possible) and learn to play ball games with the other children in class.



SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

Literacy



Reading:

We will be reading a wide range of stories this term. Our key texts are 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Sharing a Shell', 'Commotion in the Ocean' and 'Clumsy Crab'. We will use key vocabulary mats and symbols with the children to explore the stories in greater depth.

We will also start learning all about the letters in the alphabet (starting with lowercase letters). This will be accessed through various play opportunities.

Phonics:

We will be continuing to work on Phase 1 phonics looking at environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion and the introduction of rhythm and rhyme. The children learning Phase 2 phonics will be introduced to two new sounds 'i' and 'n'.

Mark Making & Writing:

The children will be developing their fine motor skills with our daily 'Dough Disco' sessions and will have plenty of opportunities for mark making through sensory play. Some children will be ready to develop their pre-writing skills and this will be some with a range of tracing activities and the opportunity to explore different writing materials such as pen, paintbrush and crayons.

Maths



Numbers 1-5:

We will continue to learn all about the numbers 1-5 through a variety of play based activities and number songs that are incorporated into our daily routine. We will also be comparing one and lots and also introducing the concept of 'adding one more' to see what numbers we end up with.

Shape & Spatial Awareness

We will also be comparing big and small objects. The children will be able to use symbols and switches and eye pointing to communicate their knowledge and understanding.

We will also begin to look at shape and will be exploring how shapes fit into similar shaped holes by using resources such as shape sorters and inset puzzles. The children, where possible, will be encouraged to do these independently and progress in difficulty when they master a particular puzzle or activity.

Pattern:

This half term the children will be introduced to the concept of 'patterns' and will be encouraged to continue and create their own patterns using our class resources such as Duplo, Pompoms and Magnetic tiles.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

Understanding the World

The children will be learning all about the wonderful creatures and plants that live in our seas and oceans and will learn some of their names and their unique features such as how seahorses and octopus may change colour to blend into their environment.

We will look at the world as a whole and explore the world map and globe, comparing and contrasting the blue and green and developing an understanding of the land and the sea.

We will also consider the effects of rubbish being thrown into the oceans and explore how we can care for and show respect to the animals that live there. We will then link this into how we can recycle at home and in school to ensure we take care of our every day environment too.

Expressive Art & Design

Under the Sea is such a wonderful engaging topic providing many great opportunities for the children to develop their skills in art and design and produce some beautiful results.

We will look at collage using tissue paper and PVA glue, painting, glitter art and wax resistant techniques. Children will be encouraged to choose their own colours, tools and materials using their preferred method of communication.

We are looking at 5 different music genres this half term with a different genre each day. We will cover rock music, reggae music, R&B music, country music and jazz music.

We will also be learning some ocean themed songs and rhymes such as '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive'



Outdoor Learning and Enrichment Opportunities

Weather permitting, the children will be able to enjoy the outside areas of our classroom, school and local area.

As we will be looking at the ocean and how we can protect it, we will use this as an opportunity to look at how we can look after our own environment by tidying up our outdoor area, litter picking in the local area and sorting and recycling our own rubbish.

We will also replicate the seaside in our outdoor provision using water sand and shells which the children will be able to enjoy and explore the contrasting textures in the environment..

Additional Information

Friday 10th February: Last day of School

Monday 13th—17th February: Half Term

Monday 20th February: Return to school

Monster Phonics

<https://monsterphonics.com/>

Animals that live in the Sea

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011l4gy>