

Broomhill First School



This half term's topic for the Big Owls is...



Friends Around the World



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be encouraged to talk and play with others to get to know their friends better. We will learn about ways to be a good friend and how to make new friends in class. Children will be encouraged to look at the similarities and differences between themselves and their friends. They will also learn about children from other countries and cultures as we think about ways that our lives are similar and different.

Physical Development

Children will develop fine motor skills by threading pasta and shaping dough to make pizzas as we learn about Italy. They will try using chopsticks like children do in China and they will use cutting skills as we make African patterns. Children will develop gross motor skills as they learn to move and dance in different ways to music from different cultures. They will have great fun becoming flamenco dancers as they dance with a partner!
Please ensure your child has their PE kit on their peg every day. Make sure all kit is labelled with their name (including PE shoes).

Language & Communication

We will be learning some simple phrases and songs in different languages so look out for your child speaking to you in Italian, Spanish or even Chinese!



Children will learn lots of new topic related vocabulary and will be encouraged to use it in their role play.

Understanding the World

Children will learn about a range of different countries around the world. We will think about ways that communities are the same and different to our own. We will learn that some children in the world are not as lucky as us and have very different ways of life. We will also have fun learning about animals from around the world and the different homes they have. **If your child has visited an exciting place in the UK or abroad, please send in any photos or artefacts so they can tell us about their travels/experiences.**

Please let us know if you have any cultural links within your family so we can incorporate this into our topic.

Mathematics

We will learn some counting rhymes and games from other cultures to help us practise our number knowledge. Children will partition sets of 10 objects to help learn number bonds to 10 (such as $1+9=10$, $2+8=10$). They will also work out simple doubles and try to recall them from memory. They will continue to add and subtract through practical contexts and with simple recordings. Children will also create repeating African and Aboriginal patterns with shapes and colours.



Literacy

We will enhance our topic with lots of interesting stories from other cultures. We will follow the life of a girl in an African village as we hear the stories of *Handa's Surprise* and *Handa's Hen*. We will use them to inspire our own ideas through story telling and story writing to help develop our language. Children will also be encouraged to write independently across the setting. All children will participate in daily phonics activities to promote reading and writing. Please make sure you read with your child or recap their phonics sounds/words on a daily basis.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will create artwork and crafts from other cultures. We will explore different textures with sand painting and rock painting. We will get into the spirit of Africa by learning some simple African drumming beats and repeated rhythms. Children will also be encouraged to dress up in traditional costume to experience life in another culture.

Wellies

As we encourage activities outside in all weathers, it would be great if your child had a pair of wellies in school. They can be kept under your child's peg in the classroom.

Water Bottles

Please send your child into school with a named water bottle. Bottles will be returned at the end of each day so they can be washed and filled with fresh water.

School Arrival

Please ensure that your child arrives at school promptly each morning so they have enough time to join the line on the main yard. The bell rings at 8:55am and we are usually the first class to go inside before the older children. Your child will grow in confidence if they come into school independently and it also helps our day get off to a quick start. I will still be around to chat before and after school if you need anything but thank you for your support with this.

Lunch

Due to a government initiative, school lunches for reception children are free this year. Having a school lunch provides excellent learning opportunities for trying new foods, using cutlery and developing table manners. However, should you prefer to provide a healthy packed lunch instead, then please let us know.



Helping at Home

Talking – Talk to your child about where they live and see if they can learn their address. Talk about other cultures and ways of life.

Food – Encourage your child to try foods from other cultures and talk about where they originate from. E.g. pizza from Italy, curries from India, noodles from China and baguettes from France.

Rhythms – Play clapping and tapping games encouraging your child to copy and make up repeating rhythms. Count the claps/beats out loud together or see if your child can count them carefully in their head. Challenge your child to count out 20 claps by themselves, seeing if they can count and clap with good number correspondence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me. Thank you for all the help and support you continue to give us. Thank you very much for reading this information letter. Mrs Haves

