Curriculum Newsletter - 2nd half Autumn 2026

Understanding the World.
We will:-

- Explore a variety of objects that float and sink and explain why
- Learn about Diwali and Christmas
- Explore different habitats including under the sea
- Use Bee Bots to move around treasure maps
- Discuss how the local environment is changing as winter begins

Communication & Language
We will be:-

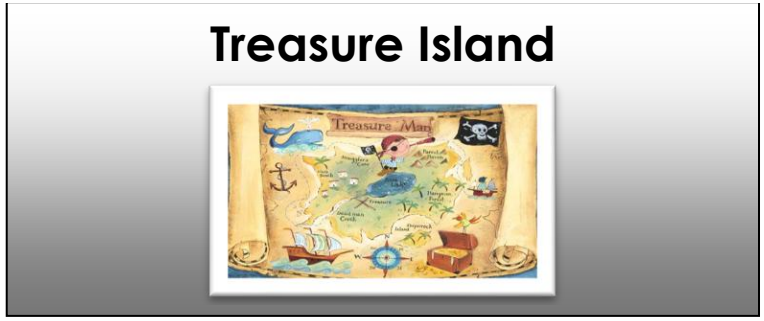
- Supporting children to follow simple directions
- Encouraging the children to use full sentences
- Learning new songs linked to our topic
- Encouraging children to ask questions and explain their understanding
- Sharing stories and rhymes linked to topic
- Beginning to identify rhyming pairs
- Developing an understanding of rhythm

Personal Social & Emotional Development
Together we will be:-

- Asking questions and explaining our own knowledge
- Continuing to develop independence when selecting and accessing resources
- Talking about right / wrong
- Thinking about sharing and turn taking

Physical Development
We will:-

- Think about healthy eating
- Understand about water safety
- Use small PE equipment in the hall
- Learn to negotiate pathways and use equipment safely inside and in the outside area
- Develop moulding and cutting skills
- Practise putting on our own coats and shoes
- Practise throwing and catching skills with a variety of resources



Expressive Arts & Design
We will be:-

- Developing imaginative play through 'small world' and our home corner
- Representing objects through different media - playdough, painting, collage work and observational drawings
- Using instruments to make sea sounds
- Learning dances and expressing our feelings in response to music
- Building ships and boats using a variety of construction materials including junk modelling and outdoor equipment

Literacy
We will:-

- Encourage the children to recognise the initial sound of their own name as other people say it
- Support them to recognise the initial sound in their name at the start of other words eg Adam/apple
- Offer a wide variety of mark making tools to write messages/letters
- Share fiction and non-fiction books linked to 'Pirates/Under the Sea'
- Work together to 'find out' information using books and websites such as 'CBeebies'
- Re-tell stories, thinking about characters and events together
- Encourage drawing of treasure maps and labelling objects

Mathematics
We will be:-

- Comparing groups of objects using the language 'more/less'
- Continuing to work on recognising numerals and ordering them
- Beginning to identify the number that is one more than
- Naming basic 2D shapes
- Using 2D and 3D shapes to make boats and flags
- Counting coins
- Creating patterns on flags

Our topic this half term is "**Treasure Island**". Here are some suggestions for ways to support your child's learning at home:

Ways to help your child at home

Communication and Language

- Play with small world toys and introduce a storyline
- Listen to Nursery Rhymes, stories and songs
- Play rhyming games together – think of a word and ask your child to find one that rhymes – extend to rhyming strings. Julia Donaldson storybooks are great for this!
- Expect them to use words/sign when they ask for things

Literacy

- Find out information about the sea – visit the library for pirate stories
- Talk to your child about print in the environment, when you are out and about
- Give your child lots of opportunities to 'mark make' using a range of equipment – chalks, water, pencils
- Ask your child to hold the book the correct way when reading and turn the pages. Encourage them to predict what might happen next
- Ask them to re-tell familiar stories
- Look at the letters in their names, say the sound their name starts with.

Expressive Arts & Design Development

- Join in dancing
- Enjoy role play with your child
- When you are out, talk about what you can see, hear, smell,
- Build models of boats and ships with different construction materials.

Personal Social & Emotional Development

- Continue to play lots of games where they have the opportunity to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to independently access what they need
- Continue to develop drawings of simple faces with 'happy', 'sad' expressions, look for these expressions in stories – why is the person feeling…?
- We like them to use their manners.. reinforce 'please' and 'thank you' at home too.

Physical Development

- Practise balancing
- Give your child the opportunity to practise catching, throwing and kicking a large ball.
- Practise using children's scissors
- Encourage your child to hold a pencil using the correct grip, ''remember nip, flip, grip"
- Encourage them to practise writing the first letter or some of the letters in their name
- Talk about healthy/unhealthy foods – encourage twice daily toothbrushing with some adult support as they brush

Understanding the World

- Learn about life at sea on board a boat.
- Talk about special events in your child's life
- Talk about seasonal changes that occur as Winter arrives
- Talk about the places where different family members live and the similarities and differences between them

Mathematics

- Look for numbers in the home, on labels, on toys.
- Count everyday objects and match to the number
- Weigh objects talking about lighter / heavier
- Use language of more/less when comparing amounts of objects

PE will continue on a Thursday. Please ensure your child is wearing leggings/joggers and trainers.
Dates for your diary: more information to follow after the holiday.
'Stay and Play' with your child – Tues 10th Nov or Weds 11th or Thurs 12th Nov 9-9.30am. One adult per child, choose one day only.
Pirate dress up day – Wednesday 18th November, children to come to Nursery dressed as pirates if they wish to or wear their Nursery uniform as normal.
Nursery Nativity - Tuesday 15th December 11am – 2 adults per child only please.
Any questions please email Mrs Dennis via 42office@oak-cottage.solihull.sch.uk. Urgent messages can be taken on the door by staff.