



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our class topic for the next half term will be water cycle. We will continue to adopt a topic-based approach to teaching and learning with this topic inspiring our activities across the curriculum. Over the course of the half term, we will also look at life skills. This will provide great opportunities to extended their self-care independence by encouraging them to dress and undress as well as opportunities to brush their own teeth. We will also explore science themes such as learning about different types of mini beasts and their different characteristics and what habitats each of these animals live in as well as learning about the different stages of the water cycle.

The curriculum coverage below provides details of the learning we will be working on in class as well as some ideas of how you can help your child extend their learning at home. You may already be doing some of these activities. Please note, the information given below is for the whole class. Your child will follow a differentiated curriculum adapted to their individual needs and interests.

If you have any questions, or if you would like any assistance implementing activities at home, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. You may contact us via the home/school diary, by calling the school office or through e-mail:

Carolina.barco@thqueensmilltrust.com

Best wishes,

Carolina Barco and Team

Subject	Suggested home activities
<p style="text-align: center;">English</p> <p>Our focus in English this half term is Phonics. Students will be following the Dandelion Synthetic Phonics Reading Scheme, which supports progression with letter sounds, reading and comprehension. We will focus on 'the sound of the week' as well as handwriting through a range of activities such as pen/pencil co-ordination activities, sensory writing, fine motor skills activities, reading activities. Pupils also will take part in 'Big Book' and Library sessions, either in 1:1 or in small groups, in order to develop their reading skills. We will also work to support our pupils in order to develop and/or enhance their attention and communication skills by using PECS, visuals, communication boards and spoken language (to expand their vocabulary).</p> <p>➤ <u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - phonics learning to spell CVC words - Writing (Handwriting, tracing letters, sensory writing) - Reading – Big Book, Dandelion Phonics Book, Personal Interests books - Introduction of colorful semantics and learning to form simple 3-part sentences (Who is doing what) - Use of communication boards to expand vocabulary and teach appropriate ways of communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading books and commenting on what is happening in the story ➤ Pointing at characters and asking 'who, what where' questions were possible. ➤ Practise pronunciation (handwriting, sensory writing). We can inform you about the sound of the week, so we will be in the same pace supporting your child ➤ Have fun making marks in different sensory materials with fingers e.g. sand ➤ Practice writing (handwriting, sensory writing) ➤ Local library visits
<p style="text-align: center;">Maths</p> <p>Our focus in Maths this half term is Subtraction 20. children build on the language of subtraction, recognising the subtraction symbol from earlier learning and using it within 20.</p> <p>Children use the counting back strategy for numbers within 20, including subtractions that cross 10. The use of zero is important, so children know that when nothing is taken away, the start number remains the same, or when the whole group is taken away, there will be nothing left. Crossing out and using a number line are particularly useful for counting back to work out subtractions.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fact families ➤ Part wholes ➤ Writing number sentence ➤ Solving subtraction word problems ➤ Subtraction up to 20 activities ➤ Using the number line to count back. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing number games • subtraction games • Maths bingo • Using food to partition quantities • Shopping activities where the children can help you paying and develop an understanding of money <p>Key questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many objects were there at first? • Then what happened to the objects? • How many objects are there now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does using counters help you? • How does using a number line help you? • Can you think of another way to show the problem into two parts



<p style="text-align: center;">Science</p> <p>Our focus in Science this half term is water cycle/mini beasts. In this small step, children look at the water cycle. They build on their understanding of evaporation and condensation from previous steps and look at these processes as parts of the water cycle.</p> <p>Within this step, children should understand that new water is not made in the water cycle. The water cycle began around four billion years ago and recycles water. They also learn that water does not have to boil to turn into water vapour and that precipitation is not just rain, it also includes hail, sleet and snow.</p> <p>There are possibilities to look at the impact that climate change is having on the water cycle. As air temperatures increase, more water evaporates into the air. Warmer air can hold more water vapour, which can lead to more intense rainstorms and extreme flooding</p> <p>Practical ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a model water cycle using a cup and a plastic bowl. • Put a small cup inside a clear plastic or glass bowl. • Pour warm water into the bowl until it is two-thirds of the way up the cup. • Do not put the water into the cup. • Cover the bowl with cling film and secure with an elastic band. Put a weight on top of the cling film (e.g. coins). • After a few hours, some water will have evaporated and formed condensation on the plastic. <p>This will then fall as "rain" into the cup.</p>	<p>Key questions</p> <p>What is the process of evaporation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could increase the rate of evaporation? • What is the process of condensation? • What is the difference between boiling and evaporation? • Dinosaurs such as the T-Rex drank water. How can children in the school have drunk the same water? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important not to waste water? • What other ways can you think of to reduce the wasting of water?
<p style="text-align: center;">Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHE)</p> <p>Our focus in PSHE this half term is self-care/Life skills. Students will be learning to dress and undress themselves. We will also be working on personal hygiene. Students will learn about the importance about brushing their teeth and the routine. As well as learning to button up their tops.</p> <p>➤ <u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Putting shoes on ➤ -Putting socks on ➤ -putting t-shirt on ➤ -putting jumper on ➤ -sorting out cutlery (Knife, spoons, fork) ➤ -Paring socks ➤ - learning to button their tops up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch personal hygiene care videos ➤ Model brushing teeth together in the morning and before bed ➤ Model dressing and undressing ➤ Play games "who can get dressed first" ➤ Talk about the importance of washing the body ➤ Practice holding cutlery at lunch or dinner time.



Other curriculum subjects

Other curriculum subjects we will explore this term include PE and Swimming, Cooking, Art, Computing, Social Wellbeing, Joint Attention, Clubs.. In PE pupils will work on agility and coordination. They will also have the opportunity to attend swimming sessions weekly. In Computing we will focus on grouping data and during Clubs sessions the students will be joining different clubs e.g. dance club, girls club, karaoke club, lego club, cinema club, according to their preferences.

Activities:

- PE
- Swimming
- Cooking
- Art
- Computing
- Social Wellbeing Sessions (Drama)
- Joint Attention
- Clubs
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- Play sport games
- Exercise at home
- Walking to the parks
- Dancing
- Crafts activities (use playdough, clay, crayons etc)
- Play educational games on the computer / iPad
- Watch a movie at home or at the cinema