

Curriculum Sharing

Kites 2023-2024

Learning in Kites

The learning in Kites is predominantly through play. The activities provided for children are structured to help them develop the skills necessary for future learning. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors. Play is imperative in a child's development- emotionally, socially and academically. If you want to find more information about this there are a series of podcasts and A LOT of literature about the importance of play.

Reading

If you were to look at an unfamiliar or foreign text would you be able to read it? This is an idea of what children see when they start seeing letters and try to interpret them to have meaning. This is where phonics teaching comes in.

Phonics lessons take place four times a week and children will be put into groups based on their ability after Half Term. We begin with introducing individual sounds and practising putting the phonetic sound to the symbol through identifying it and writing it.

An adult will work with your child to help their reading progress at least once a week. In this time, they may recap on letter sounds, listen to them read or may read a story to them.

Please see the additional information that explains how you can support your child at home.

Maths

Children will be set for Maths based on their ability. This will happen after Half Term. In Kites number is key. We begin by introducing your child to individual numbers and as this is such an abstract concept, we focus purely on the numerical value of number for the first few weeks (through Ten Town), before moving on to other areas.

Please see the additional information that explains how you can support your child at home.

If you are concerned that your child is not meeting their milestones or that you would like to know what they should be achieving and when- The What to Expect in the Early Years is a great tool on our website.

Bucket Time

We will be spending time on interaction and communication development through 'Bucket time'. Although developed specifically with the needs of children on the Autistic spectrum in mind, Bucket Time can be a very useful tool for any children who struggle to engage with adult-led activities and to improve/focus their attention.

Cooking and Helicopter Stories

Towards the end of the week the children will participate in cooking & PE based on interests, topics and skills. It is a great way to build interaction as well as learning new skills.

Helicopter stories are incorporated into carpet time at the end of the day, where children are involved in the retelling of their story through non-verbal drama.

Forest School

Forest School takes place on a Wednesday and Friday. Children will attend every week. They are given the opportunity to explore nature, make a camp fire, climb trees and enjoy the environment. The children will require wellies and clothing that is suitable for wearing outside. The children will go throughout the year, no matter what the weather, and so will need clothes that are suitable for all conditions. Warning: They will get dirty!

Snacks and water

We have snack time every day. Children are allowed one piece of fruit and drink their water. Although there is a variety of fruit and vegetables for the children to choose from, you are welcome to send your child in with a snack (fruit and vegetables only) if you know they are a little fussy!

Children are allowed to bring in water to drink. No squash or fruit juice is allowed please unless discussed with teacher/ TA. Please send your child in with a drink bottle.

Houses

Children are divided into houses: Air, Earth, Fire and Water. These are not linked to ability. Children can earn team points for their house and represent their house during sporting events throughout the year. Certificates are awarded when children reach 50, 100, 150 and 200 team points.

Rewards

Children can earn team points (as mentioned previously). In Kites, if children earn ten team points, they receive a prize.

Each Friday, 'Star of the Week' is picked from each class. As Kites do not attend Friday assemblies, they will not be in the weekly photograph that is put on the website.

Medical

If your child has asthma, please ensure that you send a labelled inhaler into school. These will be taken with us on school trips and to Forest School each week, so it is incredibly important that we have one in school. Please notify us of ANY allergies, however minor. Please remember we are a nut free school.

If your child is ill and requires medicine during school time, this should be labelled and given to Mrs Honor/ Mrs Dickinson in the school office.

Homework

Homework is not set in Kites. Instead, we ask that children read at least four times per week. This should be recorded in reading record books. Team points will be used to reward those children that read regularly.

There are also weekly ideas and challenges based on the current skill that we are learning posted on our section of the website. Please subscribe to receiving emails.

Wow sheets

'WOW sheets' are sent home weekly. If your child does something at home that they would like to share with their class and teacher, please record it on a 'Wow sheet'. Your child can then stand in front of the rest of the class and explain what they have been up to at home and after school.

Communication

The school uses a system called MCAS. Instead of paper copies of letters being sent home, letters and messages are sent out via email. If you have not yet signed up, please speak to Mrs Honor/ Mrs Dickinson in the office.

Please can book bags come to school every day as there may sometimes be other information to send home.

Parent help

It is really useful to have parents or grandparents in to listen to children read, to play games with the children as well as helping out on trips. Please do let us know if you are able to help and when, either in the chat box now or at another point. We will then arrange for you to have a DBS check so that you are free to help whenever possible.

Learning Book

Learning Book is a communication system used in Kites which documents the pupils' Wow moments in school and shows what some next steps. Parents have access to this (log in details will be sent out just after October half term) and can comment on the teacher posts. We encourage parents to share Learning Book with their children and to comment regularly.

Pupil Premium

If you are in a position where you have a low income, you could be eligible for Pupil Premium. This is funding that is given to the school and allows us to help you pay for school expenses such as school uniform, trips and visits and school dinners. Your child could also be offered tutoring free of charge if we think this would be of benefit to them. If you would like more information, please speak to your child's class teacher or office. It is handled discreetly.

Thank you, the Kites Team.