



BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

SPRING TERM - Come Outside

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year.

We are looking forward to learning about winter and looking for changes in our garden as the seasons change. We will take care of the birds that visit our playground and think about how we can take care of ourselves when it is cold. If it does snow, please send your daughter to school with wellingtons (as well as thick mittens and a hat) so that she can go out and explore it. The role play area has become a winter palace where the girls can dress up and make up dances to music they make. We will also be finding about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. Look out for the date of the phonics meeting where you can find out how we teach phonics in school. If you have any concerns at any time, please come in for a chat.

Yours faithfully
Mrs E. Buckley

How you can help your child learn at home:

- As you walk to school look out for sparkling spider's webs, frosty grass and icy puddles. Ask what is different? Why is it different?
- Continue to encourage your daughter to write her name. Don't worry if she can't write her name yet but praise what she can do.
- Look out for patterns on clothing, wallpaper, wrapping paper. Can you make a repeating pattern at home with items from inside or outside. Don't forget to load a photo of your pattern onto Tapestry.
- The girls will choose to take home a rhyming book. Once they have heard the story a few times and are familiar with the book see if they can give the rhyming word at the end of each phrase.



- Look out for logos that your daughter can recognise like  and 
- We shall be learning the Jolly Phonics songs that show us how to say the sounds that letters make. We will be starting with s,a,t,i,n and p. Please sing these at home or in the car. They can be found on YouTube.
- Play dominoes with your daughter and you will be helping her to learn how to recognise how many things are in a group without counting them.
- To develop finger strength necessary for writing, make a batch of playdough
 1. 2 tbs vegetable oil
 2. 2 tsp Cream of Tartar
 3. 2 cups plain flour
 4. 1 cup salt
 5. 2 cups water with a few drops of food colouring in

Put all the ingredients in a non stick saucepan and stir continuously over medium heat for 3-5 minutes, until the mixture comes together in a ball. As soon as it has come together take off the heat and put on a floured board and knead. It is hot. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

Now google Playdough disco - If you're Happy and You Know it and give your fingers a workout!

Communication and Language

Recall events from Christmas holiday

Use language to imagine in winter palace role play

Questions why things happen

Read rhymes and stories about winter

Literacy/Phonics

Learn rhymes/songs about winter

Recognise rhyme and be able to give rhyming word and think of more to make a rhyming string

Identify environmental print

Introduce sounds the letters s,a,t,i,n,p make through Jolly Phonic songs

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

Begin to accept the needs of others

Confident to speak to others about own needs

Aware of own feelings and knows that some actions can hurt other's feelings

Explore ways of keeping warm in winter

Discuss dangers of ice and snow

Physical Development

Knowing what to do if feel cold - wear appropriate clothing and keep moving

Attempting to do own fastenings on clothing

Hand eye coordination activities - threading cheerios, using chopsticks to pick up objects

Play games outdoors with lots of movement - Bean game, follow my leader and chasing games

Maths

Revisit numbers 1,2,3 and focus on 4 and 5 with winter theme number rhymes

Look at pattern on clothing and make repeating patterns

Use circles to make a snowman

Language of length when comparing scarves

Sequencing events - dressing and snowman melting

Showing up to 5 on a tens frame in different ways

Subitising - instantaneously recognising the number of objects in a small group

Come Outside Nursery Curriculum Map

Understanding the World

Remember and talk about past and present events in their own lives

Ongoing observations of what is happening outside?

Experiment with snow if we get any or ice

Find out about birds in winter. How can we care for them? Can we identify them from their features/ sound?

Look at clothing choices for winter. How are they different to summer clothing choices?

Respond to visitor explaining customs of Chinese New Year

Expressive Arts and Design

Create winter pictures using wax crayons, papers and paints.

Using dough make a snowman.

In Winter Palace role play area explore sounds instruments to make sound collage

Create movement in response to wintery music

Respond to Chinese music with ribbon dance and create music in Chinese style