

Dragon Class Newsletter

February 2017

Dear parents,

This month celebrates my one-year anniversary as the Dragon Class Teacher. It has been an incredible year for me as I have learned a lot about myself as I try to develop my teaching skills. It is a test of patience and control being a Kindergarten Teacher but it also offers tremendous rewards. Just seeing a group of smiling faces in the morning is enough to cheer me up!!

Over this year I have seen an unbelievable amount of development throughout the class. When I started there were lots of tears in the morning and "I want my mummy" but not anymore. I have seen the quiet ones who wouldn't say a word develop and are now chatting away in English and giving great performances in the Drama Plays and Reading Contests. We have the really confident and talkative ones who love to chat, give answers in class and tell funny little stories. They are a mixed group of children but that makes for a great class as their personalities mix well. We have arguments and disagreements but we also have great fun and I can see some great friendships starting to develop.

We work hard on their academic education and I have seen vast improvements throughout the class but we also work really hard on their social development- being polite, having manners, showing respect to everyone, making friendships and forming relationships with people we may not like very much. If we can instill these attributes at an early age it will be hugely beneficial for when they go to elementary school.

I'm sure with continued hard work February will be a successful and positive time for all!

Best wishes,

Teacher Eamonn

Reading

Reading class is something we take a lot of pride in here at Marshall. We aim to have a class of independent readers with a full grasp of phonics and the pronunciation of words. This class is also great for building up their

vocabulary which in turn benefits their conversation skills. I find this class feeds the student's imagination, inspires children to read stories in their own time and usually by the 3rd year they are wanting to write their own stories! As reading is a personal favourite pass time for me I take a lot of care bringing out the best possible results for the children in this subject and I hope you will all see a steady improvement in your child's ability.

February 3rd: Panda Kisses

February 6th-10th: Panda Kisses

February 13th-18th: Happy Alphabet

February 20th-24th: Cooking with the Cat

Core Material

This class is an all encompassing lesson for the children's reading, grammar and phonics skills. In these classes children are asked to analyse stories, practice vowel sounds and use a selection of keywords for sentence making and grammar. This year we have started to assess the students on their spelling and understanding of concepts. This is a non-pressurised situation where we review the core material and assess it through 'fill the gap' or 'choose the correct word' exercises. I am trying to encourage them to do it by themselves and not shout out the answers so everyone gets the opportunity to complete it independently. We then review and test the spelling of the keys words.

February 3rd: Unit 2 Week 1 Workshop – Our community

February 6th-10th: Unit 2 Week 1 Workshop – Words to Know: again, help, new, there, use

February 13th-18th: Unit 2 Week 1 Workshop – Phonics: men, bed, vet, pet, red, mess, head, well, dress, smell, deaf, bread

February 20th-24th: Unit 2 Week 1 Anthology – Jobs around Town

Math

We are using the MPM books and boxes for our maths class. They really have a unique and interesting way of delivering common mathematical concepts to the children often by using animals, colours and objects that children associate with fun and games! This month we will focus on...

February 3rd: B1:P01-5 Learning to sort shapes

February 6th-10th: B1:P01-5 Learning to sort shapes

February 13th-18th: B1:P06-10 Learning to draw curved and zigzag lines

February 20th-24th: B1:P11-14 Learning about regional and rotational correspondences

Physical Education

This is important for all everyone. In our busy lives we all often forget to exercise and I am a strong believer in “Healthy Body/Healthy Mind” so is vital for our younger generation to get lots of exercise and fresh air. Not only does it benefit our bodies but also our social skills such as teamwork, competition and fair play. I have started to include team activities to promote teamwork, encouragement and understanding consequences if you don’t try hard for your team. Gross motor skills can aid with our fine motor skills too so I try to include activities such as relay races, follow the leader and co-ordination tasks which are fun and engaging.

Thematic Activity

Each month a different foreign teacher is assigned to plan and arrange activities of a given theme. This can be anything from small art projects, short field trips near the school or even a party in the classroom! The themes are often related to different festivals around the world so it really helps them to understand different cultures while having fun at the same time. February’s activities will revolve around an international thematic such as traditional food, buildings, pictures or animals. These activities are always fun and exciting for the children.

February 6th-10th: Presidents Day

February 13th-18th: Hamburger

February 20th-24th: Hot Dog

Song and Dance

This is a great opportunity for myself and the students to bond and enjoy some songs together. Singing and dancing not only teaches new words and tunes but also aids listening and Gross/Fine Motor skills as dancing involves learning movements so requires good co-ordination. These songs and dances are often included in our Drama Plays so are an important aspect of Marshall school life.

February 3rd: We will rock you

February 6th-10th: We will rock you

February 13th-18th: We will rock you

February 20th-24th: We will rock you

Handwriting

This year we have a handwriting class which continues to develop their Fine Motor skills. We are working towards independent or ‘free writing’ i.e. without the use of lines to guide or help them. The activities have a template of the target letter, capital and small, to show the students the correct way and then guide lines to allow them to practice by themselves. I am always saying ‘remember the lines’ to make them write it neatly. The aim is for ‘muscle memory’ to develop so they will be able to write freely. If we have some extra time I let them write words on the whiteboard as this is a good practice for free writing and spelling. I have seen considerable improvement through the class which is great to see!!

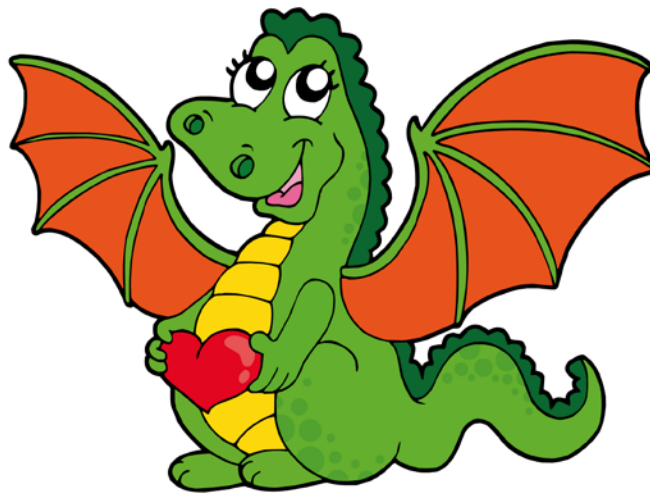
Library/Storybook Each week the children get the opportunity to borrow a book to take home and read by themselves. Recently I have been choosing a fun and interesting story to read to the class. I take my time to explain concepts and any morals from the story. It's lovely to see all of them listening to the stories and taking an interest! They really get involved with the stories and I believe it's good for their listening and their imagination!

I hope this has been an insightful newsletter for you all,

Thank you for reading!

Best wishes,

Tr. Eamonn



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親愛的家長：

本月要慶祝我擔任小班龍老師一年紀念，不可思議的，這一年來讓我成長許多，我試著精進自己教學技巧。當一個幼教老師真是耐心和掌控力的一種的考驗！但同時也有巨大的受益，如每天一早就看見一群天真的笑容便足以讓我受到鼓舞。

歷經這一年來，我看見孩子們普遍的驚人成長，從他們哭喊著“我要找媽媽”到現在已無此現象了。從我看見他們沉默，隻字不語的孩子至今已能用英語交談，而且在話劇表演和朗讀比賽都有很棒的表現。在課堂上我們真的有些了能夠獨立且健談的孩子們很愛聊天，能回答問題並說些簡短有趣的故事。這些成員參雜在些小團體裡，但當不同的個性混雜在其中混得好時，就造就了很棒的課程氛圍。我們也有些紛爭和意見分歧的，但仍然樂在其中，而且我看見友誼開始從中生成。

我非常努力的教導他們學業而且我已看見這班的孩子無限的可能，也非常努力的引導啟發社會智能-客氣的，有禮貌的教育，表現出對每個人的尊重並且在友誼互動上不對別人做出自己不喜歡的行為。如果我們能在幼兒時期慢慢的灌輸這樣的教育，將來對他們進入小學將有非常大的助益。

我確信如此在二月持續持續的努力，將會是非常成功且充實的時光。

祝福您們

老師 Eamonn

閱讀

閱讀課在瑪歇爾是最引以為傲的。我們將重點放在讓孩子們獨立掌握字的發音和語調。這堂課也在孩子們爭取輪流表達中，建立他們的字彙和會話的熟練度。我發現這課程能培養發孩子們的想像力並激發他們在擁有自己的時間時閱讀，如此持續第三年，他們正期待想要寫自己的故事哦。我個人最喜歡閱讀打發時間，在這個科目上，我花了很多時間來引導出最佳的可能結果給孩子們，希望您們能看見孩子們日積月累能力的進步。

2/03: Panda Kisses

2/06 -2/10: Panda Kisses

2/13 -2/18: - Happy Alphabet

2/20 -2/24: Cooking with the Cat

主教材

此課程大都圍繞在孩子們的閱讀，文法和發音技巧上。在這些課程的學習，孩子們被要求分析故事，練習母音發音，並用選取關鍵字造出句子和文法。今年我們已開始評估孩子們在拼字和概念的理解了。這是沒有壓力的學習情境，當我們學過主教材要複習之處，就會透過“填空”或“選出正確的字”的活動來複習。我試著鼓勵孩子們自己嘗試完成並不說出答案的作答，因此每位孩子們都有機會獨立完成。之後我們便複習並測試拼出這些關鍵字。

2/03 : Unit 2 Week 1 專題討論 – Our Community

2/06 -2/10: Unit 2 Week 1 專題討論 – 字彙 : again, help, new, there, use

2/13 -2/18: Unit 2 Week 1 專題討論 - 自然發音 : men, bed, vet, pet, red, mess, head, well, dress, smell, deaf, bread

2/20 -2/24: Unit 2 Week 1 文選 – Jobs around Town

數學

目前我們的數學課使用 MPM 書當教材。他們真的有很獨特且有趣的方式，常透過動物，顏色，和些物件以及些孩子們互動的遊戲，給予孩子們一般的數學概念。本月我們將專注在...

2/03 : B1:P01-5 學習形狀的種類

2/06 -2/10: P01-5 學習形狀的種類

2/13 -2/18: B1:P06-10-學習畫曲線和 z 字形

2/20 -2/24: B1:P011-14 學習局部的和旋轉的位置辨識

體能教育

這是對每個人都很重要的課。在我們忙碌的生活中常忘記運動，但我篤信有健康的身體才有健康的心靈。所以讓我們的新一代.運動呼吸新鮮空氣很重要。不僅只是對我們的身體有益，對我們的社交如團隊合作，比賽和公平遊戲都有益。大肌肉可帶動全身肌肉，故我整合成接力賽活動。服從領導和協調工作 都是有趣又吸引人的。我開始介紹孩子們團體的活動，專注在教孩子盡全力取團隊的獲勝，學習重點是了解自己是團隊的一份子，學習如何盡全力幫助彼此，成就團隊。我試著讓孩子們了解考量他人的重要，而非自己本身。

主題活動

每個月都有不同的外師設計安排不同的主題給孩子們。這活動可以是小的美勞作品，短程的戶外教學，甚至是一個教室裡的主題活動！主題往往來自世界各地的相關節慶，所以這真能幫助孩子們在從事有趣的活動中同時了解不同的文化。二月的主題將周旋在國際性的主題，如傳統的食物和建築，及圖畫和動物等。

2/06 -2/10: 美國總統

2/13 -2/18: 漢堡

2/20 -2/24: 熱狗

歌曲律動

這對我自己而言，是一個很好的機會讓我和孩子們連繫在一起享受些歌曲。唱歌和跳舞並非只教些新字和旋律，也學了聆聽力和粗細動作，當他們在跳舞時需要學習好的合作關係。這些歌曲和舞蹈通常都會涵蓋在話劇表演中，所以在瑪歇爾的生活是很被看重的一部份。

2/03: We will rock you

2/06 -2/10: We will rock you

2/13 -2/18: We will rock you

2/20 -2/24: We will rock you

書寫

今年我們仍持續有書寫練習來啟發他們小肌肉的應用。我們朝著用鼓勵獨立或不用分隔線引導來協助讓他們書寫。這些的活動是有字體的目標模式，大小寫，引導孩子正確的方法然後使用導引線讓孩子們自己練習。我總是提醒他們“要記得分隔線”讓他們寫得端正些。重點在於啟發“肌肉的記憶”讓他們能自由的書寫。如果我們有些多餘的時間，我會讓他們在白板上書寫，是很好的自由書寫及拼字練習。我已經透過上課，看見他們真的進步非常多，這真的是我所樂見的！

圖書室故事時間

每週孩子們都有機會借一本書回家自己閱讀，最近我選了一些好玩有趣的故事書在課堂裡讀給他們聽，我花了些時間從故事書中解說些道德的概念，看著他們充滿興趣的聆聽故事，真的很可愛！他們真的很熱衷於這些故事，我也深信這將有助於他們的聽力和想像力。

我希望我的這封信能帶給您們有所啟發。感謝您的閱讀！

祝福您們，

老師 Eamonn