



Whale Class Newsletter November 2023

This month we have the school play, so you will see that the first 2 weeks of many classes has been replaced with rehearsal time. The class are doing a good job, particularly with phonics so they are not having any problems keeping up the schedule. The play will be on Friday, November 17th, I am sure the class will do a good job of getting ready for the play.

Core Material

This week we are looking at chapter 4 of the workshop book. The chapter is called “make it better” and the story is “Thumper helps out” The chapter is about how to improve your community and environment. (Don’t litter, etc.)

The key words this month are “all”, “call”, “day”, “her” and “want”. For phonics we will look at th, sh an -ng words.

- Week 1: Prepare for school play
- Week 2: Prepare for school play
- Week 3: Key words + sentence making
- Week 4: Read story + Q&A

Conversation/Grammar (Grammar Space)

This month we are looking at does have/doesn’t have, and at the end of the month we are starting unit 14 – adjectives. The vocabulary is pretty basic – fast, slow, light, heavy, etc.. I think this unit will go quite quickly so hopefully we can add some extra adjectives like cheap and expensive and the kids can use them in their spelling class sentences.

- Week 1: Prepare for school play
- Week 2: Prepare for school play
- Week 3: Do/Does + Don’t/Doesn’t
- Week 4: Adjectives

Phonics

As you can see we are looking at long vowels, we are continuing to review the different spelling rules. At the end of the month we will finally start looking at some new concepts, starting with hard and soft C. The class have actually learnt this as I taught them the difference between words like lake and lace.

- Week 1: Long o,u,e
- Week 2: Long Vowel Review + High Frequency Words
- Week 3: Assessment
- Week 4: Hard and Soft C

Writing

This month’s chapter is Lost and Found, which is about adjectives. This is convenient since it matches the topic of the grammar book so we get more time to review the grammar. The chapter focuses on word order. E.G shape then color – big, red car. This is a bit difficult for kindergarten age kids to understand or remember, it’s easier for them to pick up just by hearing phrases said over time. The chapter finishes with the kids writing a short description of a lost object. They have an example on the previous page but I try to encourage them to add their own ideas.

- Week 1: Prepare for school play
- Week 2: Prepare for school play
- Week 3: Adjectives
- Week 4: Adjectives

Story Books

There are only 2 books this month due to the rehearsal times. In class I focus on pronunciation of the sentences and also on common words – for example a story may have a lot of long vowels or focus on a few consonant blends like sh and st.. I also try to have the kids touch each words as we read so that can learn to recognize some of the words.

We also do some simple Q&A with the stories, the class are quite enthusiastic about trying to answer questions and they are have lots to say about the stories. This semester's books are a bit more complicated, but still quite similar to last semester. There is a wider variety of vocabulary and the sentence patterns are more varied, so it can be harder for the kids to remember all of the sentences.

Week 1: Prepare for school play
Week 2: Prepare for school play
Week 3: Just Me and My Dad
Week 4: Just Me and My Mom

Math

This month we only have 2 weeks of MPM due to rehearsal for the play. We will finish book 3 and then do a page of the sticker book. After this we will go onto addition. We also have 2 supplementary books, one for addition and another for subtraction. At the moment we are working on the addition book and the class are generally making good progress in this area. Most of the students need reminding to check their work and count twice, but they are pretty good in this area.

Week 1: Prepare for school play
Week 2: Prepare for school play
Week 3: Paths + Sticker Book
Week 4: Addition

Physical Education

We currently have PE on Thursday afternoons. At the moment we are just doing simple activities like foot or tricycle races because the kids can understand the idea easily. This semester we can try relay races where the kids pass batons to each other and race in teams.

Song and Dance

The school day starts with song and dance. The children get the chance to move around and have some fun before we start our first class. I also like to have them practice between classes or at the end of the day sometimes so that the students have the opportunity to move around and have some fun rather than sit for extended periods of time.

Week 1: Prepare for school play
Week 2: Prepare for school play
Week 3: We've got the Whole World in Our Hands
Week 4: We've got the Whole World in Our Hands

See you next time!
Teacher Kevin