



Rowan Curriculum Letter Autumn 2016



Welcome back! We hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday. Below is an outline of the learning opportunities planned for your child this term.

General information: Children in both Rowan classes will have regular PE sessions – Explorers on Monday and Friday, Investigators on Monday and Wednesday, as well as having opportunities to use the outdoor climbing frame. For these activities children will need their labelled PE kit in school every day. Please check the size of your children's plimsolls as their feet have a habit of growing! Children with long hair will need to have it tied back and earrings need to be removed or covered with micropore tape.

Homework: We would encourage you to read with your child as much as possible. Children will be issued with a reading book chosen for their stage of development, which we will change regularly. They will also be able to choose a library book several times a term and as they are the children's own choice, they may be more suitable to read to them or to be shared in a more collaborative way. Please make a note of any reading that your child carries out at home so that they can move up our 'reading rocket'. This will provide them opportunities to share their reading achievements, as well as earning stickers and certificates. Spellings and Times Tables will be sent home on Friday and then tested the following Friday.

Thank you for your help at home, it really makes a difference. We are extremely grateful for all your continued support. If you have any questions, please ask Miss Rawlings or Mrs Warwick.



Children will take part in regular Maths lessons which will provide them with opportunities to develop their skills in calculation, reasoning and problem solving. We will be building up their mental maths skills through regular activities.



Rowan will be learning about *Plants*, we will be working scientifically, performing simple tests and observing closely how plants grow and what they need to stay healthy. They will be learning how to:

- observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

We will then move on to explore everyday materials and their properties, here the children will learn how to:

- identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses
- find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.



Children will be taking part in sessions focussing on building a variety of physical skills including ball control. They will be learning to work together as a team.

They will also be developing their dance skills, and exploring different ways of moving.



We will continue to have regular Phonics sessions in order to provide children with specific reading and writing skills. In our Literacy lessons, we will explore writing for different purposes including writing letters and invitations.



Children will continue to develop their computing skills, using Learn Pads and desktops. They will use these to do research and also word processing. Through the use of cameras the children will be learning how to:

- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- recognise common uses of information technology beyond school
- use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.



We will be learning about celebrations both Christian and in other religions including Harvest and other Autumn festivals, moving on to look at Winter festivals in other religions and Christmas.

Music - This term in music, the children will explore how to use their voices expressively and creatively when learning a range of songs, chants and rhymes both when preparing for church services and performances and in topic related songs.

They will also be learning some basic formal music notation skills whilst learning to play the recorder. If children have their own recorder at home please could they bring this to school (labelled) every Tuesday.

Art -

During this term we will be exploring Van Gogh's famous painting 'Sunflower'. Then we will be investigating a range of landscapes and the children will be using a range of materials creatively; continue to develop their art techniques in using colour, pattern, line and shape; and comparing artists work identifying similarities and differences, whilst making links to their own masterpieces.



Petworth's Got Talent!

This experience takes place from Monday 5th September until Friday 16th September 2016. Rowan will be learning to appreciate and celebrate their own talents and those of others. Through this experience we will be developing within children the core values of **Respect** and **Independence**.

Possible homework activities, please select at least one to do during the learning experience.

- Draw, paint or collage a picture of yourself.
- Write about one talent or interest you have and how this has developed.



Our Local Area

This experience will take place from Monday 19th September until Friday 21st October 2016. The children will be covering their geography curriculum through this topic, they will be taught to:

- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. Through this experience we will be developing within children the core value of **Creativity**.

Possible homework activities, please select at least one to do during the learning experience.

- To create a small model of a building in Petworth.
- To write a story about a child living in another country.



Christmas

This experience will take place from Monday 31st October until Friday 6th December 2016. The children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of the Christian festivals of Advent and Christmas, as well as winter festivals in other religions. They will be preparing for our Christmas performance of 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' learning lines and/or stage directions for the characters they will play. Through these experiences we will be developing within children the core values of **Respect** and **Creativity**.

Possible homework activities, please select at least one to do during the learning experience.

- Create a 3D Christmas decoration for a tree or table centrepiece showing a scene from the Nativity.
- To write your own version of the Christmas story from the viewpoint of one of the animals in the stable.