



Autumn 1



Nursery Curriculum Newsletter

Communication & Language

This area of development focuses upon children's listening and attention, their understanding and their speaking. In terms of children's listening and attention, we aim to encourage your child to focus upon their self-selected or group activities for increasing periods of time. We will also be providing activities/materials such as a listening walk and musical instruments, to support children in identifying sounds which are the same/different in the environment; this is important for phonics learning in the future. In terms of developing your child's speaking, we are always encouraging them to talk about a range of topics (e.g. home, their favourite toys, television characters, the world around them etc.) and encourage children to use simple sentences when talking.

How you can help at home

You can: continue to talk to your child about everything around them (What did they see in town? What did they do at Nursery? What can they see in pictures in story books? etc.) Play listening games with your child (e.g. I'm thinking of an animal and the sound it makes is moo! Simon Says, Musical Statues etc.) Enjoy sharing stories together, talking about what is happening in the story and what your child can see in the pictures. Instead of asking questions that can be answered with a yes/no; ask your child more open questions such as: What can you see? Why do you think...? What will happen next? To try and get them to say more upon a subject.



Physical Development

At Nursery we aim to develop your child's self-help skills, enabling them to function with more independence in the Nursery environment. For example, being able to use the toilet and wash their hands independently and put on their own coats. This is supported throughout our daily routine, by encouraging children to try to do things independently, but providing support where necessary. For example, the children select their own fruit and pour their own drinks in our snack area.

In terms of children's physical skills, we are encouraging the development of large (e.g. climbing/moving in different ways) and small (e.g. hand/eye co-ordination activities such as threading) motor skills both outside and inside. This half-term we will also be starting music and movement and 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' sessions, where we will be dancing and then drawing a range of movements (e.g. straight lines and circles).

How you can help at home

You can: continue to encourage your child to try and dress themselves independently at home (focusing upon taking their shoes and socks off and putting them back on, would be fantastic in preparation for our music and movement sessions in the hall). Practise pouring their own drinks at home, or pouring water in various containers in the bath. Take them to the park to play on large play equipment. Draw/paint together, encouraging your child to try and hold pencils/crayons near the bottom-modelling how to hold them correctly.





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Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Our focus for this half term is upon developing children's familiarity with the Nursery environment and Nursery routines. This is underpinned by the development of positive relationships between all children and adults in the setting; which will be achieved through playing alongside and cooperatively with each other in all areas of Nursery and through games and group activities. We will particularly be focusing upon sharing our toys and waiting patiently for our turn with our toys. The children will also be developing familiarity with our 'Show me 5' for focused group times (see the Show me 5 display in Nursery).

How you can help at home

You can: Play simple turn taking games with your child (e.g. simple board games) or simply encourage your child to share a toy with their brothers/sisters or yourself (e.g. Can Mummy have a turn with your car?) Talk to your child about the different activities available at Nursery and try some of these at home (e.g. making/playing with playdough-for a recipe ask a member of staff or drawing/painting together). Practise 'Show me 5' at home, taking it in turns to do this.



Topic – Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow

This topic is all about the Autumn and Harvest Time. It will include learning about what happens during the Autumn and Harvest (e.g. the seasonal changes and about how farmers grow and harvest a range of crops). Some of the activities we will be participating in include: fruit and vegetable printing (exploring Autumnal colours-red, yellow, brown, orange), making fruit and vegetable people, based upon the work of the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and making our own collages. We will also be exploring the traditional story 'The Little Red Hen' which teaches children about helping others, harvesting wheat and making bread. We will be role playing this story and also making our own bread, amongst other Autumnal treats! We will be baking every week, once all our new children have started and settled into Nursery. In addition to learning about the Autumn and Harvest time, we will be learning about the Hindu celebration of Diwali; finding about why and how Hindus celebrate this festival. We will be sharing the story of Rama and Sita with the children and making our own Diwa lamps amongst other Diwali activities!

How you can help at home

You can: talk about the seasonal changes with your child as you walk around the local environment. Talk with your child about where our fruit and vegetables come from (not just Asda!) Bake your own bread/flapjack/apple crumble together. Do your own fruit/vegetable printing in paint at home. Borrow stories from the library...some good stories are: Farmer Duck, The Enormous Turnip and Oliver's Vegetables (re-tellings of these stories may also be found on You Tube). Watch Cbeebies 'Let's Celebrate: Diwali' (on BBC iPlayer/the internet) and 'Come Outside: carrots' (available on You Tube).

Important Dates & Information

Wow Area: We now have a Wow Area in Nursery, opposite the coat pegs. In this area you will find our 'Super Star Challenges!' If your child practises the challenge at home, and you tell us when they have achieved this challenge, your child will be rewarded with a small prize from the Nursery Special Treats Box! Also in this area, are 'Super Star Sheets', on which we would like you the parents/carers to write down all the amazing things your children have achieved at home. For example, getting dressed independently. Additionally, we would love to hear about any new experiences your child is involved in. For example, a visit to the seaside or enjoying a new baby. These sheets can be given to a member of staff or clipped to our 'Super Star board' above the coat pegs. We look forward to hearing all about your child's experiences and celebrating their achievements with you.

Keyworker: Your child has been allocated a keyworker, who will support your child in their play, learning and development throughout their time in Nursery. Please feel free to speak to your child's keyworker at any opportunity to discuss your child's progress; celebrating their successes and any concerns that may arise.

YOUR CHILD'S KEYWORKER IS:

