

CURRICULUM INFORMATION



Nursery Autumn Term 2019 Welcome

The Nursery team warmly welcomes all new and returning parents and children at the start of the new school year.

Curriculum

Our main aim during this first half term is to settle all the children into Nursery and to ensure that they feel happy, safe and secure. We also carry out a number of activities and observations which form our baseline assessments of the children in Nursery. This enables us to work out the next steps in learning for each of the children, which we use to inform our planning.

Our overall theme this half term is 'Wonderful Me' but we will also be finding out about the children's interests and using these to develop learning opportunities. Our theme during the second half term will be 'Nursery Rhymes'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be working hard to develop positive relationships, establish routines and to make sure that the children understand the high behaviour expectations of them. We will also be promoting positive friendships among

Communication and Language

We will be focusing on developing strong skills in listening and attention. We will also be assessing each child's level of speaking and understanding, both of which are very important for developing well in all areas of the curriculum.

Physical Development

We will assess each child's gross motor and fine motor skills in order to plan appropriate activities for them. The children will have access to the outdoors to develop strong gross motor skills and will have fine motor activities in our Continuous Provision which will all help to develop the muscle strength and dexterity to work towards a good pencil grip and balance and coordination.

Literacy

We will be sharing lots of stories as a class, in small groups and individually to foster an enjoyment of **reading**. Listening to and talking about stories are really important early reading skills and we really encourage you to make use of our Nursery Library baskets to enjoy regular stories at home too (see note below).

During the second half term we will also have a focus on nursery rhymes. Singing nursery rhymes and songs with children helps develop their language and communication skills. They are also an important part of developing early literacy skills.

Mark making is the start of **writing**. We always have a mark making area in nursery and this term will be encouraging children to talk about their pictures and marks.

Mathematical Development

We will be assessing where the children are in their understanding of **number** and **shape, space and measures** and will be encouraging them to use number and counting in their play. There will also be lots of different opportunities for counting in nursery and we will be singing number rhymes and songs.

Understanding the World

We will be encouraging the use of our small world area, introducing the children to activities on the interactive board and the nursery cameras and encouraging the children to be observant about the world around them. We will be noticing signs of autumn and the early signs of winter as our seasons change.

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD):

The children will have independent access to different materials in our creative area and will be taught how to use them. They will also be encouraged to use the role play area and to join in with the many songs we sing in nursery.

Religious Education:

Our three themes this term are 'Myself', 'Welcome' and 'Birthdays'.

Myself - we think about our names and how we are all special and loved by God.

Welcome - we think about how we feel welcome at nursery and how we make others feel welcome. We also think about belonging to our families and how we are welcomed into God's family through Baptism.

Birthdays - we think about our birthdays and how we celebrate our birthdays. We learn about the birth of Jesus as we prepare for Christmas.

If you and your family celebrate different religious festivals, we would be really pleased if you could send in some photographs for us to show the children and to display in our RE book.

Nursery Library

We have some baskets of books available in Nursery which you may borrow to share with your child at home. Reading stories with your children is a very valuable experience for them. Just write in the big book to say which book you have borrowed and tick to show when you have returned it.

Outdoor Learning

As part of the Early Years Curriculum, Foundation children are expected to do some of their learning outside. Your child will be given the chance to be outside during part of every day, whatever the weather! Thank you to all those parents who have provided a pair of named wellies for their child to wear outdoors.

Activities to help your child at home

- Practise some self-help skills; encouraging your child to use the toilet independently, recognise their coat and shoes, put on and take off their shoes and coats etc,
- Talk to your child about the activities they have been doing at Nursery.
- Read lots of books with your child. Discuss the pictures with them and talk about what is happening.
- Practise counting objects with your child by touching them as you say the number names. Count socks, spoons, carrots, stairs, cars - anything! Make it fun!
- Talk to your child when you are outdoors - look at the changing trees and other signs of the different seasons.
- Sing songs together. We are building a collection of words to songs we sing in Nursery; if you would like a copy of any songs, please ask. Some of our song words are in the yellow folder in the cloakroom.
- Read the weekly Parent Note for ideas linked to the week's activities.

Collecting Children

Please ensure that you collect your child promptly, so that the staff can prepare the Nursery for the next session. If you do experience a delay, please telephone the school office on **01908 606966** to let us know.

Finally, the whole team values the philosophy of working closely in partnership with parents. If you have any worries, concerns or celebrations of your child's achievements, please do not hesitate to share these with us.

Mrs Tholen, Mrs Cathcart and the Nursery Team.