

Nursery Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2017

We would like to start this letter by wishing you all a very warm welcome back to school. The new school year brings new starters to our nursery class. Starting school is a huge step in your child's life. Congratulations and welcome to: Esme, Lola, Toby, Rory, Oscar, Tia, Georgia, Laura, Noah, Coco and Betsy! Mrs Wall would also like to say thank you for the welcome she has received from the parents. She was more nervous than the children on her first day! She is now settled in and is very excited about her new class!

This week in class has been about Mrs Wall getting to know the children, and the children getting to know Mrs Wall. Thank you for supporting this by helping with the About Me bags. The children have really enjoyed sharing these and they have had a lot to say! Mrs Wall has learnt a lot about their unique personalities and individual interests. She can now prepare a classroom environment that will best meet their needs. This week there has also been a focus on The Golden Rules. These are rules that promote positive behaviour and are used by the whole school. A copy of these are attached to this letter for you to share with your child(ren) at home. You might like to use them too!

Next week we start our first topic. This is

All About Me!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Becoming part of a new class is an opportunity to make lots of new friends. We will be encouraging the children to get to know one another - remember each other's names and how to be a good friend. We will also help them learn to recognise different emotions. We want the children to know that it is ok to be worried or upset, so that they feel comfortable to talk to us about it. Part of this includes doing our emotional check in and we ask you to support them in completing this in each session.

Communication and Language

Your child will be developing their communication skills this term in many ways. As part of the settling in process we focus on good listening skills and how to take turns in speaking when in conversation. When our topic develops we will be learning about the five senses. This is a great theme to promote descriptive language. We will be introducing vocabulary to describe the things we hear, see, touch, feel and taste! This will include a mixture of messy and yummy activities!



Physical Development



Our main focus this term is fine motor development. This is very important for our nursery children, as muscle strength in the fingers is crucial for mark making and writing skills. During our topic we will be looking at homes and houses. This lends itself for some engaging fine motor activities. The children will be exploring keys and padlocks, tinkering with tools and real-life household objects, and experimenting with attaching different materials to build.

Literacy

The children will be involved in shared reading and storytelling every day. All the stories are based on our topic to pull our themes together. Below is a list of stories you can find on YouTube that we will be covering in class. You might enjoy sharing these with the children at home.



The Journey to Grandpa's

My Mum is Fantastic

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You Hear?

Our phonic work will be based around several aspects. The children will be learning about environmental sounds, sound discrimination, alliteration and rhyme. These are essential pre-reading skills that lay the foundations for further literacy development. The emphasis is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Learning about sound patterns in spoken words is an important part of this. We have lots of exciting activities planned, such as going on a listening walk, drumming on different items outside and comparing the sounds, playing a sounds lotto game and making shakers. The children will also be singing songs and action rhymes, listening to music and developing a sounds vocabulary. Phew!

Mathematics



Our main focus this term is shape, space and measure. During our homes and houses theme we will be building and modelling our own. This provides us with the opportunity to explore the different properties of different shapes. Within this we will be comparing and contrasting shapes, as well as naming the common 2D shapes. When our theme is bodies, we will be making a life size version of our self! The children will then use different resources to measure this, such

as bricks and buttons. This will promote size and measurement language, as well as supporting ordering skills. Our daily routine will continue to support counting and number recognition.

Understanding the World

As part of our topic 'All About Me' we will be looking at similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Mrs Wall will be introducing Poppy and Patrick the persona dolls to the class. Persona dolls are a method that can help children to explore a range of big issues in a non-threatening way. They arrive at school with a 'back story' and are integrated into the class. As worries or interests arise from the children, they are used to promote empathy and a recognition that we are all unique. In the past, they have been used to support a wide range of things. This has included concerns about wearing glasses, to discussing the separation of parents.



Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be encouraging the children to 'go big' in their designing and modelling. This will be closely linked to our learning in Mathematics and Physical Development, as we create houses using large resources and explore different ways to join these.

Our themed work around the senses really encourages children to be active learners, as they explore painting with spices, modelling with herbie dough and creating textured collages.

What can I do to help/enhance my child's learning this term?

Parents and Children Together books (PACT books)

These books are for home and school communication. Mrs Wall will include a PACT task each week for the children to complete at home. This will be related to what the children are learning about in class. There will also be a 'What we are learning this week' note, so you are always informed of our teaching and learning at school. The books are given out on a Monday and collected in on a Friday. This will start on Monday 18th September. Please feel free to include any information from home that you would like to share with us in these books. This could be something your child is enjoying doing at home or information about a new achievement. The more we know about your child, the better we can provide for them!

We are really looking forward to working with you and your child. If there is anything you think we need to know about your child please come and speak to us. Our door is always open! ☺

Mrs Wall, Mrs Bowen and Mrs Wilkinson.