



## Nursery Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2018

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 Busy Bee Class.

This week in class will be about Mrs Wall and Mrs Bowen getting to know the children, and the children getting to know them. Thank you for supporting this by helping with the About Me bags. These help the adults to build a picture of the child, learning about their unique personalities and individual interests. The About Me bags help support all the children to understand that some things make us the same, and some things make us different. The adult support around this guides discussion about why this is a great thing.

The established children will be becoming 'Buddies' this week, helping the new children settle in. Mrs Wall and Mrs Bowen will be embedding The Golden Rules, these are rules that promote positive behaviour and are used by the whole school. In Busy Bee class the rules are introduced with a story and then are positively reinforced with a class reward system. The class need to reach thirty stickers to receive the reward. Below is the list of Golden Rules, with the book in relation to it, and the reward the class will receive once achieved.

### **We share and we care.**

That's Mine!

Reward : Milkshake and cake

### **We use kind hands and feet.**

Hands are not for hitting.

Reward : Party games

### **We use nice words.**

Please Mr Panda

Reward : Dress up day

### **We look after property.**

The Messy Book

Reward: New toys

### **We follow instructions.**

Listen Buddy

Reward : Cartoon and popcorn

Individual achievements are celebrated by use of our Super Friend and Proud Cloud scheme, look out for certificates coming home!

Over the next few weeks the theme in class will be:

# All About Me!

This is a 'loose' theme, most of the planning happens one day for the next, or in the moment! The adults support and extend children's development using what they are interested in and what is meaningful to them. The weekly news slip always details what has been pre-planned by Mrs Wall and what the children have been focused on in their own initiated work. It is usually in the child initiated work that we see the deepest learning take place, so it's always interesting to see what has taken their fascination during the week. The following details the specific learning objectives of the Foundation Stage Curriculum that the planning will focus on. The children also take part in; circle time, phonics, rhyme time and interactive story telling every session!

## **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**



The main focus this term is fine motor development. This is very important for the nursery children, as muscle strength in the fingers is crucial for mark making and writing skills. During the 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 Interactive Story Telling every day. The stories this half term are:  
Goldilocks And The Three Bears  
Bear On A Bike  
Going On A Bear Hunt



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**



The main focus this term is shape, space and measure. During the homes and houses theme the children will be building and modelling their own. This provides the opportunity to explore the different properties of different shapes. The children will be comparing and contrasting shapes, as well as naming the common 2D shapes. When the theme is bodies, they will be making a life size version of their body! 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 the theme 'All About Me', the children will be encouraged to look 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 the adults 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. The 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?

Please attend our Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage evening on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. You should have received a flyer about this. The start time has been changed from a 5pm, to 5.30pm. This is an 'adults only' event which will tell you all you need to know about the practice and provision at Thirsk Nursery. This night is for new and established parents.

### Baseline Assessment Consultation

By the end of September all children will have their Baseline Assessment completed. This is a judgement of development measured against 'Development Matters', which is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. These consultations are important, they will highlight the level of development your child has achieved, their next steps, and the level of progression expected before the start of their Reception year. Below details the dates and times these will be taking place, some are within school time so that your child can be in the classroom whilst the meeting takes place.

16 <sup>th</sup> October	1 - 3.30 pm
18 <sup>th</sup> October	3.45 - 5.00 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	1 - 3.30 pm

A sign-up sheet for times will be put up in the classroom at the end of September.

### Parents and Children Together Books (PACT Books)

Mrs Wall and Mrs Bowen 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. One week will regard our Phonic work, the next the focused theme in class. There will also be a 'What we are learning this week' note, so you are always informed of teaching and learning at school. The books are given out on a Monday and collected in on a Friday. This will start on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 you know about your child, the better we can provide for them! The information from these books are used for your child's assessment.

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. The door is always open! Mrs Wall is in class from 7.30am each day and happy to take phone calls.

Thank you,

Mrs Wall and Mrs Bowen.