



Autumn 2017

We hope you find the following information helpful.

Most of our daily routines are explained on the information sheet that you should have already received but please find below information about our curriculum for this term which will be based around the topics of Nursery Rhymes, Autumn, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Planning is based on the principles and requirements of the Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Early Learning Goals for the Early Years Foundation Stage and the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education.

There are seven 'Areas of Learning' in the Foundation Stage:

Personal, Social and Emotional Education

Throughout the term, children will be taking part in a variety of activities and games to encourage sharing, taking turns and team work. They will be encouraged to develop independence, self-confidence and self-awareness as we establish daily routines e.g. changing outdoor shoes for sandshoes, self registering, changing for PE lessons, tidying up etc. We also enable the children to form good relationships within the setting, to manage their feelings and behaviour and to think about how their actions affect others.

Communication and Language

A focus of this teaching will be on listening carefully and maintaining attention as they listen to stories, rhymes, instructions etc. We will gauge their understanding of language as we see how they respond to instructions and directions as the children take part in fun activities related to our topics. We will aim to develop their speaking skills as we encourage them to use more complex sentences with a range of tenses, to extend their vocabulary and question why things happen and how things work. They will also have lots of opportunities to extend their speaking and listening skills in the role-play areas – The Home Corner, Humpty Dumpty's Café, a Diwali-themed area and a stable in Bethlehem at Christmas time. Speaking and listening skills will also be taught more formally using a scheme called 'Time to Talk' and through regular Circle Times.

Physical Development

The children will be encouraged to take part in lots of activities requiring hand-eye co-ordination to develop their gross and fine motor skills, including a weekly 'Hand Gym Challenge'. We will provide lots of opportunities to use mark-making equipment such as paints, water, pens, pencils, crayons etc. A correct grip on pencils and pens will be encouraged and we will begin to teach correct formation of cursive letters. The children will also practise cutting skills and be taught that our equipment and tools have to be used safely. We will provide lots of opportunities to build and play with various construction toys and 'small world' activities.

Children will have access to a range of small and large equipment (e.g. balls, hoops) to develop throwing, catching, retrieving and kicking skills and will be able to use the outdoor areas to practise climbing and balancing skills.

There will be some opportunities for PE time in the Hall later in the term where they will develop skills such as balancing, jumping and stretching as well as using their imagination in dance activities. The main focus of these early PE lessons will be for the children to change out of their school uniform into their PE gear independently - and then hopefully, to put their own uniform back on again at the end of the session, and not somebody else's!!

Literacy

Throughout the year the children will be undertaking work covering all aspects of Literacy.

Pre-reading and early reading skills will be taught using the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, which combines the use of story CDs, the reading of 'Big Books' and character and word recognition using flashcards.

Children will be encouraged to develop an interest in reading through looking at a variety of books with the teacher – both fiction and non-fiction books. The children will begin to learn to use terms about books correctly, such as 'front cover', 'beginning', 'page', 'line' etc.

Children will have a daily Phonics session. Our Phonics planning is based on the National Strategy document 'Letters and Sounds'. The children will be learning the sounds and names of the letters of the alphabet using 'Jolly Phonics' and a multi-sensory approach. This term, much of the teaching will be based on segmenting and blending sounds, and on alliteration (hearing initial sounds).

Following our school policy of joined writing, we will be practising cursive letter formation with leading strokes. A correct pencil grip will be encouraged and the children will practise writing on a regular basis.

Maths

Children will have a daily Maths session. Through games, rhymes and practical activities, the children will work on recognition of numerals (initially to 20) counting, ordering numbers, counting objects reliably, estimating and checking, finding 'one more' or 'one less' than a given number and adding and subtracting. They will be taught to form numbers correctly and some will begin to record number sentences. We will also work with 2D 'flat' shapes and 3D 'solid' shapes, teaching correct names and mathematical terms to describe them. The children will also develop their knowledge of pattern, position and direction, use everyday language related to money and time and order the days of the week and months of the year. During their 'activity time' in Home Groups, children will have access to other Maths activities (eg number games or pattern and shape games), including a weekly 'Maths Challenge'.

Understanding the World

Children are encouraged to remember and talk about significant and special times or events in their own experience e.g. family birthdays, Hull Fair, Bonfire Night or Christmas.

They will also learn that children from other cultures have different experiences as we learn about Diwali and Hanukkah later in the term.

The RE this term provides the opportunity for the children to learn about themselves – who they are, what they look like, their likes and dislikes – how special they are! They will also hear stories about 'special people' from the Bible and consider their special qualities. At Christmas time, we will focus on the birth of Jesus in preparation for our Nativity performance.

During the first half term, we will be digging outside in our garden, planting some bulbs and of course, checking for and observing insects! Children will be taught to show care and concern for living things and for our environment.

Regular use of Information Technology will develop keyboard, mouse and button control through interactive and fun activities on the interactive whiteboard, computers, I-Pads and CD players.

Expressive Art and Design

Children will have access to painting, collage and model-making materials at most times throughout the term for independent and creative 2D and 3D work. They will also have times of 'guided' art and craft work based around our themes as they work with an adult and also time to investigate a range of creative techniques such as mixing colours, marbling and different painting methods.

The children will also be encouraged to engage in music making, copying simple rhythms and making up their own, using instruments to make sounds in different ways- loud, soft etc. They will have times of class singing when they will learn simple songs from memory, they will have the opportunity to move in time to music and to talk about likes and dislikes and how some music makes them feel, using our music scheme, 'Charanga'.

In the role-play areas mentioned above, the children will be able to mimic their own life experiences and play alongside and interact with other children involved in the same 'game'. They will also be encouraged to play co-operatively as they make up stories and act out the roles of characters and use their imagination.

Thank you for taking time to read this information. We're in for a busy term!

*Please remember, we are always available if you have any questions or concerns. **After** school, at 3.30pm is easier for us, unless it is urgent.*