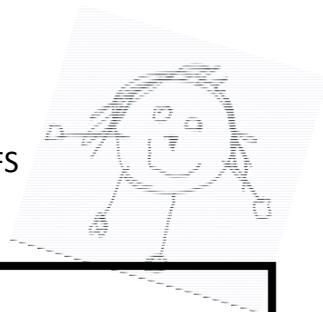


Reception Newsletter - Autumn

This term we are focussing our learning on getting to know our new friends and the grown-ups in the class. This will form the basis for our work across the seven areas of learning in EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage).



Communication and Language

We will be reading lots of familiar (and some new) stories together and asking children to respond to what they have heard by anticipating key events or relating what they have heard to events in their own lives.

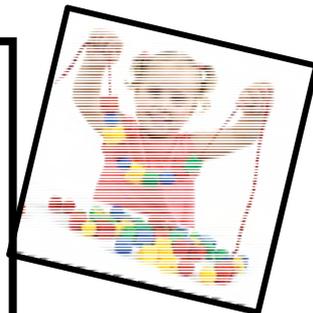
Children will have lots of opportunities to build their confidence and ability in speaking by talking about things that are familiar to them such as homes and family.

As we learn new routines, we will be developing listening skills; encouraging children to listen when others are talking, and to give everyone a turn to speak. As their confidence grows, we will encourage children to speak within the class group.



Physical Development

We will begin our 'funky fingers' sessions, in which children will do a range of activities (threading, using tweezers, sorting small items) that build their 'writing muscles'. This will enable them to handle writing tools and scissors with greater skill. This term is important for learning to manage self-hygiene skills such as toileting, dressing and washing hands. We have begun our weekly PE lessons in which they will be playing multi-skills mini games. Changing for PE also offers opportunities to practice building dexterity; undoing buttons and changing shoes.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be supporting children to build new friendships (and strengthen existing ones) by working in new and unfamiliar groupings and helping them to communicate appropriately with their peers.

Children will learn to operate independently inside and outside, making choices about what, where and who they wish to play with. We will also be supporting children in becoming familiar with the routines of school such as register, lunch, snack, home-time etc. so that they feel happy and confident at school.



Literacy

We will share lots of books as a whole class as well as having access to books throughout the day. We will also begin the school reading scheme and your child will start by bringing home picture books to share with you.

We will begin phonics lessons in which we will initially be focussing on listening skills; identifying sounds we hear and listening for rhymes. We will then move to learning letters and sounds and children will bring home a homework book to share their learning with you. Children will continue to practise writing their names and begin using their new skills to label their work.

We have begun our storytelling sessions in which children tell a story that is scribed by an adult then acted by members of the class. As the year progresses, children will be encouraged to write their own stories to be acted out.



Maths

We have a daily whole-class maths session in which we will be focussing on counting and recognising numbers to 10, then 20. We will sing familiar number songs and learn some new ones. We will take opportunities to count wherever they arise, ensuring that we say 'one number name for each thing'. During everyday play we take the opportunity to incorporate maths whenever possible, encouraging children to think about number, size, shape etc.

Understanding the World

We will be thinking about ourselves, and the children will be given opportunities to talk about themselves; their homes, families and events in their lives. We will be observing the weather and talking about seasonal changes when we visit the woodland for forest skills.

As Harvest approaches, we will talk about the life cycle of plants, and the different foods that are grown from them. We will plant bulbs ready for next year, and will think about the conditions they will need to grow.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children will have the opportunity to develop their creative skills through the use of a range of media. This term, children will be familiarising themselves with the materials available, and we will be focussing on using scissors effectively. Drawing tools and model making apparatus are available for children to use during their play. We will sing songs; both familiar and new, and will use a range of percussion instruments to accompany them. Our Harvest festival and Nativity play will offer lots of opportunities for learning new songs and taking part in a performance.

