

Literacy

Children's phonic journey will continue with a focus on developing sound talking and blending skills to use and apply letters and sounds already learned. We will also be doing lots of work on identifying initial sounds heard in a word to begin to add labels to pictures being drawn.

Supporting children with their phonic reading book and also with using their online Bug Worlds will help this greatly. Remember to encourage your children to discuss what they are reading too to support comprehension.

We will continue working on fine motor skills through our 'finger gym' but will also be starting our handwriting practice to work on correct formation of the letters we are learning in our phonic sessions. We will also continue working on name writing and the correct formation of letters within them.

You can support this by helping your children practice lowercase letter formation and model correct formation as they work on name writing. Here's a fun way for children to see the formation before having a go themselves. [Sky Writer - mobile friendly \(ictgames.com\)](http://www.ictgames.com)

Physical Development

Children will continue to develop gross motor skills through exploring moving in a variety of ways. They will be encouraged to work on obstacle courses to work on balance and to move freely to music as we dance.

They will be supported to develop fine motor skills with activities in our 'finger gym' such as threading, playdough, and tinker trays. We will work on scissor skills in the box modelling area by cutting a variety of materials to create their own models.

Continuing to practice handwriting patterns and letters – with a stick in mud, in shaving foam or paint etc. will help lots. Please also continue to encourage independence to dress/undress, fasten shoes/laces, buttons and zips and to toilet independently – Please encourage children to close the door as this is something we have found they are forgetting!

The Notice Board

- Forest school – Monday 2nd December
- Class 1 Christmas performance – Tuesday 17th December (times TBC)

Please can we ask:

- That **ALL** items of clothing are clearly named.
- Children bring their own named water bottle every day (with **WATER ONLY** – no juice please!)
- Book exchange day is Thursday so we ask for all books (reading and library) to be returned by then.

Understanding the World

We will begin the half term discussing Bonfire Night and how children may have celebrated it.

We will be discussing places which are special to them and why they are special. We will then link this when talking about special places for Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and discussing how these places are the same and different.

Autumn Term

Reception

Vision - To be a community of confident, creative learners thriving together in a rich, inclusive environment that raises the aspirations of each unique child

Expressive Arts and Design

Role Play in 'Home-corner' which will be decorated at different times to support learning about festivals we will discuss such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. Children will be encouraged to use their imaginations and express their creativity through storytelling and role playing,

A focus on drawing skills will be made this term. Children will learn how to draw a variety of lines to create, shapes and patterns and to begin to represent everyday objects.

Maths

We will continue to explore (in depth) numbers to five – how to represent them in lots of different ways – with objects/pictures and numerals. We will also be learning about the composition of numbers to five (the idea that all numbers are made up of smaller numbers). One more/less than them and counting amounts accurately with 1:1 correspondence. Children will learn about the four basic shapes – circle, triangle, square and rectangle. We will be going on shape hunts and supporting children's understanding of shapes in a variety of sizes and orientations.

You can support your child by encouraging them to continue to count accurately with 1:1 correspondence. If they are good with objects, a challenge could be to count movements, sounds or number of sleeps to an important event. Also practising numeral formation – 1 to 5.

Encourage your children to spot shapes wherever they go. Challenge them to explain to you how they know what shape it is.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, the children will be encouraged to use the activities and resources independently to support and promote their decision making and self-initiated learning both inside and out. They will work on turn taking, persistence and adaptability through co-operative and collaborative activities such as role play and group art work. They will be supported to develop an understanding of our school routines and expectations within it. We will use the 'Our Happy Mind' programme to support this.

Communication and Language

The children will work on speaking and listening skills during whole and small group discussion. They will work on lots of Phase 1 listening and attention games and participate in chat mat activities where they will be encouraged to share thoughts, opinions and ideas. **You can support them by continuing some of the Phase 1 games suggested in your welcome booklet – especially initial sound games and oral blending and segmenting ones.**