



Spring 2022 Early Years Newsletter and Learning Journey

Happy New Year! *We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break and are excited for the term ahead. This newsletter will outline our topics, including the learning pathways and objectives, for the Spring term.*
Mrs Robinson

We will begin the new year with the theme *I wonder what's out there...* We will be using our Pie Corbett texts 'Goodnight Moon' and 'Whatever Next!' to adventure through space, and in Spring 2 we will use 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt' and 'The Gruffalo' to explore the woods. The children will have the opportunity to lead their learning during their own play and their interests and development will be planned for during structured guided learning and during direct teaching time. Following on from Autumn term, we will continue to embed our rules and routines to enable all the children to become increasingly self-aware and promote a safe, positive learning environment where all our staff and children can **Aspire, Believe, Achieve to be the very best that we can be.**

NEW! Show and tell is BACK! 🗣️

To support our 'Communication and Language' area of development your child will be allocated a day when they can bring an item from home into school to use during our 'show and tell/expert' session. If you would like to upload photos to act as a stimulus, this can be done on Tapestry. If possible, we would encourage you to support your child to select an item which relates to one of our areas or topics.

PRIME AREAS

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Throughout our daily practice, and within our PSHE sessions, the children will be learning to manage their own hygiene and personal needs. We will explore how to stay safe, including dangers, strangers, trusted adults and road safety. Finally, we will use our knowledge of feelings from the Autumn term to explore the feelings of others.

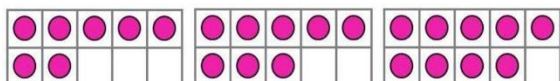
Communication and Language

We will be engaging with lots of different stories and non-fiction books, identifying rhymes, repeated refrains and learning new vocabulary. The children will have lots of opportunities to express their own thoughts and ideas during our Key Group circle times.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop our gross motor skills, including muscle strength, balance, and ball skills. In PE, we will be combining different movements in gymnastics, developing ease and fluency. When using mark making tools, the Nursery children will be encouraged to use a comfortable grip with good control. Reception children should develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.

SPECIFIC AREAS



Mathematics: Knowledge, Skills and Understanding Reception:

- I can look at small quantities in familiar patterns - for example a dice and random arrangements, saying how many I can see.
- I can use 5 frames and 10 frames to become familiar with the tens structure and talk about the filled and unfilled spaces.
- I can link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal value.
- I understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers.
- I can count beyond 10, noticing patterns within the structure of counting.
- I can compare length, weight and capacity.
- I can continue, copy and create repeating patterns.

Nursery:

- I am developing a fast recognition of small amounts of objects.
- I can link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral up to 5.
- I know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects, tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle')
- I can solve real world mathematical problems with small numbers.
- I can compare quantities using language 'more than', 'fewer than'.
- I can make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity.
- I can use accurate language to discuss routines, locations and sequence real or fictional events.

Literacy: Knowledge, Skills and Understanding Reception:

- I can complete a rhyming string
- I can use sound buttons to identify how many sounds are in words.
- I can recognise all taught Set 1 sounds, including the diagraphs.
- I can blend sounds into words, to read words and sentences made up of known letter-sound correspondences, containing 1 or 2 common exception words.
- I can re-read phonetically decodable books to build up confidence, fluency, understanding and enjoyment.
- I can answer questions about a text that has been read to them.
- I am beginning to predict what might happen next in a story.
- I am beginning to use modelled vocabulary during role play.
- I can write short sentences with words with known sounds.
- I am beginning to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in independent writing.

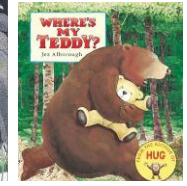
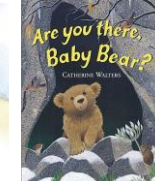
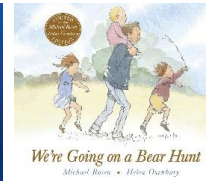
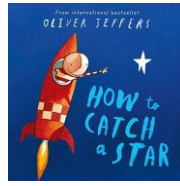
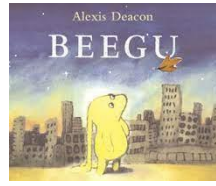
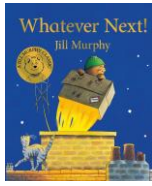
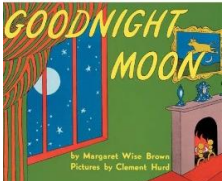
Nursery:

- I notice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo.
- I understand print has meaning, has different purposes, we read from left to right and from top to bottom, different parts of a book and page sequencing.
- I can ask questions about a book and make appropriate comments.
- I am developing play around favourite stories using props.
- I can write some or all of my first name.
- I am beginning to write initial sounds as captions for drawings.



Story of the Week

Reading to children is the best way of encouraging them to love books and reading. Every week, we will use a book as the stimulus to consolidate key concepts and introduce our new learning. We will read this multiple times to enable the children to join in with the actions, expressions and hear and use new vocabulary. In our reading area, we will continue to display our Pie Corbett Reading Spine books and also, books and resources which will enhance our learning across the different areas of development and our own interests.



Expressive Arts & Design

Across our classroom and outdoor area, the children have access to a variety of open-ended resources which they can use to enhance their pretend play in various forms. The children will engage with instruments, music making, singing, dancing and performing in both independent and adult-led sessions. In our craft areas, the children will enjoy drawing, creating and junk modelling using a range of resources and tools. During our themed books, the children will explore metallic, reflective materials when making space crafts and colour mixing when creating planets. In the playdough area will also make 'moon dough' and 'mossy woodland dough'.

Understanding the World

As we explore space and the woods we will be able to describe what we see, hear and feel. And further, compare and contrast these different environments with our own. As our School Eco-Committee begins to action their plan, we will be supporting our environment, thinking about how we can respect and care for our natural surroundings and all living things. As we move through Spring 2, we will consider the beliefs and celebration of Easter including changing seasons and features of various plant and animal life cycles.



Religious Education: We will be thinking about the questions from our 'Salvation' unit. 'How can we help others when they need it?' and 'why do Christians put a cross in an Easter Garden?' We will also be learning about the Chinese New Year through the story 'Dragons in the City'.

Collective Worship: The Reception children will take part in daily worship when we gather, engage and respond to biblical teachings and links to our school core values; forgiveness, trust, hope, friendship, honesty and love. Nursery will also have the opportunity to join us some days.

Federation Expectations



Within our classroom, we have pictures to represent each of our behaviour expectations. Alongside our class behaviour ladder ranging from Outstanding, Ready to learn, Time to reflect and consequence. Expectations:

- We look after our school and each other
- We are kind, polite and helpful to everyone
- We keep hands, feet and other objects to ourselves
- We always do as we are asked and always allow others to get on with their work
- We walk sensibly and quietly in school

Commando Joe's



We will be facing our weekly Commando Joe's Missions focusing on the **Self-Awareness and Positivity** traits from the R.E.S.P.E.C.T curriculum.

Home Reading

The children will receive a school story book to share at home. Please write in your child's home school diary, so we know when this has been read. Book changing days will continue to be **Monday & Friday**. Reception will receive a Read Write Inc book bag book tailored to their phonics knowledge and a PM reading scheme book to support their recognition of high frequency words. Your child should read 3 times per week at home and will be listened to in our daily Read Write Inc sessions and during 1-1 reading. It is extremely beneficial to read the books a few times to encourage fluency.

Partnership with Parents

To enable children to thrive in the early years (EY) it is important for school and parents to work in partnership. We will share information with you through home school diaries, school newsletters, weekly EY newsletters (via Tapestry Memos section), text messages and notices. The Friday EY newsletter will also inform parents about the weekly learning, which can support parents to continue this learning at home. Parents can liaise with staff through home school diaries or alternatively can call the office to schedule a call from the class teacher.

Reminders

Timings: Nursery 8.45 – 11.45/ 12.30 – 3.30 (optional earlier pick up) Reception 9.00 – 3.10pm

Pick up: If your child is being picked up from school by someone who is not on their 'who am I going home with' list or we have not met before please ring the office to make us aware of this.

Uniform: Uniform lists are on the school websites along with our providers. Please ensure your child's clothing is **labelled** and provide them with a named pair of wellington boots for school use.

Snack/Lunch: Please ensure we have plenty of notice if you wish to change your child's milk/snack or lunch options.

Medical: If there are any changes to your child's medical information, please ensure we know about this as soon as possible.

Physical Education: Children should come to school in their PE Kit for their lesson on a Thursday. Reception will be swimming in Spring 2, further information will be sent out.

Here's to a happy, healthy and successful Spring Term

Mrs Robinson