

Nursery Curriculum Blog

Autumn 1 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all families and children returning from last term. A big hello to all the families and children joining our nursery this term. We look forward to getting to know you and your child a little more in the coming weeks.

These Curriculum Blogs will outline the focused learning for each half term. In an academic year there are 3 terms (Autumn, Spring and Summer) divided into 6 half terms. For each half term there will be a focus topic, and each week a focus book and activities related to the book and topic and to aspects of the seven areas of Development Matters, the guidance on which we base our early years curriculum.

This Autumn 1 our topic is 'This is My World'. A celebration of family and community. Our focus will be getting to know the children and for them to get to know us as they settle into nursery life. The children will be encouraged to share and celebrate the uniqueness of their own family and culture and experience some of the similarities and differences between them and other children and their families.

Ms Lynne Tyrrell (Nursery Teacher) Mrs Jane Farrell (Nursery Nurse)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-Regulation, Managing Self Building Relationships



PSED is one of the 3 Prime areas and covers 3 areas: which impact all areas of a child's play, development and learning. PSED doesn't happen in isolation and in our setting, adults continually guide, support and model appropriate behaviours and give positive feedback to support and encourage every child's individual development. During this half term the focus will be on settling the children into our nursery community. Giving them the confidence to respond to their name, supporting them to explore the setting so they may begin to build relationships with their peers and adults.

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention and Understanding



Speaking



Communication and Language is a prime area which means that it's one of the important building blocks for all the other areas. As speaking and listening develops, children build foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing.

This half term adults will model good listening and support each child's understanding with due regard to each child's individual needs and current abilities. The first weeks will focus on settling the children and encouraging positive communications between children and children and adults. This will include speaking, signing and visual aids for all children. From the second week there will be key group sessions where the children can experience conversations and activities related to the weeks' topic book or any 'in the moment topics or celebrations

Every child will have a Speech and Language (Wellkomm) assessment in the first few weeks.

Physical Development

Gross Motor skills



Fine Motor skills



Physical Development is our 3rd Prime Area and has 2 parts: Gross Motor and Fine Motor skills. Gross motor skills involve movements of the large muscles of the arms, legs, and torso which support the development of whole-body movements such as dancing, climbing and jumping, plus abilities such as balance and coordination. They also form the basis for fine motor skills that help us make small movements with our hands and wrists such as manipulating small parts and using a pencil to good effect.

In the first weeks, the children will be supported to be physically active in exploring Continuous Provision inside and in our garden area. The children will first be introduced to using the trikes and bikes, then the Gym Trail, ball skills and field sports. Our weekly yoga sessions will commence from the second week.

This half term the children will be encouraged and supported to develop their fine motor manipulation and control skills. Each week there will be a focus on a fine motor activity. We begin with small brick building, then threading, malleable play and small parts sorting activities.

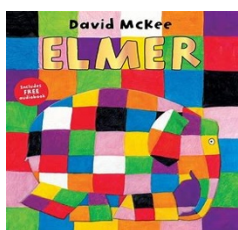
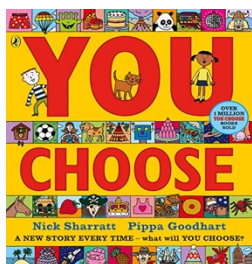
Phonics



Our daily phonics sessions begin in the second week and commence with the whole class rhymes and nursery songs. During the following weeks the children will be introduced to a range of environmental sounds activities to develop their listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.

Literacy:

Word Reading, Comprehension, Writing



Each week there will be a different focus book to share with the children, to discuss and explore across many areas of their development and learning.

In the Continuous Provision there are reading and mark making materials in many areas to support these emerging skills.

1. The Great Big Book of Families. Mary Hoffman

The key theme running through the book is that every family is different, and that's OK. It explores and celebrates the similarities and differences between families and cultures and is a lovely starting point for young children to share their knowledge of their own families and to begin to understand the differences between people.

2. You Choose. Nick Sharratt, Pippa Goodhart

This is another visually attractive and colourful book that allows children to make choices. In nursery we often use the interactive whiteboard to display a page so the children can see it together. First, we discuss what choosing means. Then we show a page and share our choices. For example, what type of house would you like to live in: a tent, castle, a boat maybe?

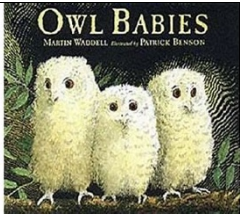
3. Elmer. David McKee

Elmer is different from his friends. He wonders what it would be like if he was the same as them. Elmer is a multicolored patchwork elephant, he is unique, and he soon realizes that his friends love him just as he is. This book is funny and colourful, which appeals to young children, but it also promotes inclusivity and friendship.

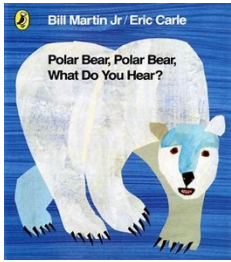
4. Owl Babies. Martin Waddall Patrick Benson

Mummy Owl has gone, and the baby owls are left alone in the darkness of the wood. The owls each express and share their feelings until finally Mummy owl returns. Owl Babies is a wonderful book to share with young children, to help tackle anxieties and fears about temporary separation. And to begin to understand that it is ok to express how you are feeling.

5. Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? Bill Martin Jr, Eric Carle



This is a lovely, noisy book that identifies an animal by the sound it makes. It is a good story to encourage children to develop their listening skills as they wait to hear the next animal noise and maybe to repeat the sound themselves. And it is a great story for the children to act out together.



6. Monkey Puzzle. Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler

The baby Monkey has lost his Mummy. A butterfly offers to help. Though well-intentioned, it frequently confuses different animals for the monkey's mother due to its misunderstanding of the descriptions provided by the monkey.

This book not only highlights the differences between animals but also reinforces the importance of friendship, teamwork, and the bond between those we love.

Mathematics:
Number



Number Pattern



We encourage, model and support children to develop early counting like behaviours across all areas of their learning and development.

We begin our maths sessions with introducing counting in songs and rhymes. Very noisy and lots of active fun! The children will be encouraged to use their fingers to count, initially 0-3. In later weeks the children will be supported to compare amounts and to count out objects from a larger set.

All children will be encouraged to build with a range of building materials: such as bricks, boxes and small parts. and explore inset puzzles. Our Continuous Provision will support these early number skills with a range of resources always readily available.

Understanding the World:

People, Culture and communities



The Natural World



This covers 3 areas: People, Culture and Communities, The Natural World and Past and Present. We will focus on the first two areas and will include Past and Present towards the end of the year.

The children will be encouraged to make connections between the features of their families and other families and notice differences between people. This is an introduction to the uniqueness of all families and people and relates directly to our current topic. The children will be supported to share their family experiences through a range of creative activities, role play and discussions.

The children will be supported to use all their senses to explore and respond to natural phenomena in the setting and to explore natural materials inside and outside. The children will have daily opportunities to explore and investigate our natural environment. Initially in the nursery's own natural area and then in the wider school environment. They will be introduced to the Autumn season and our daily weather report. The children will be encouraged to explore and chat about many natural objects. In the final weeks we will be supporting the children to listen to sounds in our environment and introduce other natural sounds through online activities.

Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with Materials



Being Imaginative and Expressive

This half term we will focus on making simple models and manipulate and play with different materials. Each week the children will have the opportunity to create a range of models related to the week's focus book. This will include a collage self-portrait, junk model home, painting, clay models, sound makers and designing a tail! In addition, children will always be supported to make their own creations.

The children will be encouraged to begin to develop their pretend play, alone and with new friends. Our Continuous Provision (CP) provides opportunities and resources to extend their play both inside and in the garden area. The role play corner is set up as a home area where children may explore their experiences of home life alongside their peers.



There will also be daily opportunities to take part in busy action songs.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home linked to our areas of learning this term:

This Is My World topic. Look at photographs of your child and family together. Chat with them about their family: who lives with them? Are there extended family/friends living with them, nearby or maybe in a different country? Look at an atlas/ world map to find the country.

Point out your door number/street name. Are there steps/lift/path to the front door? Count the steps, windows, doors with your child.

Focus books read aloud online links:

The Big Book of Families: <https://youtu.be/nx5WgSngy90?si=QOOUhKnxncuFAq7E>

You Choose: <https://youtu.be/tUca8bkXwjl?si=uiL1MlqcxQgkhwN>

Elmer: <https://youtu.be/ZFrD18XLmIM?si=WDZf7QgdQ1FazLMA> Read by the author David McKee

Owl Babies: <https://youtu.be/bXP66T2wp-k?si=vpHfB3eDKq-8As3O>

Polar Bear, Polar Bear What do you Hear? https://youtu.be/ctQjLfmKinU?si=u3vspAbLRLva_tGM story
<https://youtu.be/0lf0eX4zzUo?si=WSJAFcUF3tRnYtol> song version

Monkey Puzzle: <https://youtu.be/yJslnPJpOdc?si=OXVmKI07hvPLVx1K>

- **Reading.** Share reading experiences with your child every day. This is essential to grow your child's love of stories and progress their reading skills. Share books (fiction and non-fiction), magazines, menus, labels, environmental signs. Remember to return a nursery book in their book bag each Monday so they may pick another book to take home each Wednesday. *Please remember to log on to Boom Reader (our free, online reading record) to record your child's reading experiences every week (home book or nursery book).*
- **Tapestry.** Log on to our free, online learning journal to follow your child's and add home learning experiences to support their development record.

All new families should receive invites to connect to these apps within the first few weeks of the term. After this time, if you have not received an invite to connect to these apps (please check your junk folder) or are having trouble connecting, please contact me on Dojo or in person.

Reminders

School uniform is compulsory. Black shoes without laces if possible. No trainers, flip flops or jelly shoes.

No jewellery to be worn. Small stud earrings only.

Please provide:

- **Waterproof suit and wellington boots.** These will be kept in the nursery.
- **A Blue Book bag** (or similar) to keep your child's story book in. Bring in on Monday. Home on Wednesday with a new story book to share.
- **Small rucksack to come in/home every day.** It should contain a full change of clothes. Nappies and wet wipes if required. *Do not put any medicines, sweets or drinks in the bag.*
A drink bottle is NOT required.

Homework Project – Children are asked to choose **one** of the projects below to complete.

Please complete and return Homework projects by **Friday 13th October**. Homework projects will be celebrated and shared in class **from Monday 20th October**.

1. Create a picture or model (s) of your family OR house using collage materials, paints, natural materials etc.
2. Support your child in taking photographs of their family to create an A4 montage or book. Decorate it using any drawing materials and craft decorations.

Please add your child's full name to their project.