

Nursery: Autumn Term

Communication and Language

In Autumn 1 your child will be developing their communication and language skills through play and everyday experiences. They will be encouraged to talk about their play and past experiences, respond when spoken to directly, and begin conversations with adults and other children. We will also support them to use short phrases confidently to express their needs, wants and ideas.

In Autumn 2 your child will continue to build their communication skills by taking part in back-and-forth conversations with adults and friends. They will be encouraged to ask questions about the world around them, respond to questions from familiar adults and use language to describe their play. They will also enjoy joining in with and beginning to perform familiar stories.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Autumn 1, your child will be developing their independence, confidence and emotional awareness. They will learn to name and talk about their feelings and learn ways to regulate when experiencing big emotions. They will learn how to follow simple instructions and work towards goals during play. We will encourage them to make different play choices, play alongside their peers and communicate their needs, including when they need the toilet, are hungry, wet and thirsty. During this half term we will go on a school trip on the mini bus to see explore our local area.

In Autumn 2, your child will continue to develop their confidence, independence and understanding of others. They will learn to recognise and respond to their friends' feelings, understand the consequences of their choices and talk confidently with trusted adults. They will also develop self-care skills, including handwashing, choosing suitable clothing for the weather and learning what they need to brush their teeth. Children will be encouraged to reflect on and improve their play by observing and learning from others. During this half term we will go to the pantomime.

Physical Development

In Autumn 1, your child will develop their physical skills through a range of fun, active and creative activities. They will practise balancing, climbing, kicking and moving on bikes, as well as developing their coordination and control through activities such as building with blocks, using playdough and painting. They will also develop their independence with self-care skills, such as using a hand dryer and knowing when their hands are dry.

In Autumn 2, your child will continue to develop their coordination, movement and independence through a range of fun activities. They will practise catching, joining in with songs, dances and games, and develop their fine motor skills through using scissors and pencils. Children will also build their independence with dressing and using cutlery.

Literacy

In Autumn 1, your child will develop a love of stories and early literacy skills through playful and shared reading experiences. They will enjoy joining in with repeated words and phrases in familiar stories, using toys to act out story characters and talking about their experiences at school. Children will also begin to recognise the capital letter at the start of their name, practise handling books carefully and explore mark-making during play.

In Autumn 2, your child will continue to develop their early literacy skills through stories, rhymes and playful activities. They will join in with repeated words and phrases, recognise familiar patterns in stories and rhymes, and talk about what they can see in illustrations. Children will practise recalling rhymes, clapping syllables and creating pictures to represent words they hear. They will also develop their book-handling skills and begin to form the capital letter in their name.

Maths

In Autumn 1, your child will begin to develop their early mathematical understanding, with a particular focus on the number 1. They will explore quantities by noticing what is the same, more or fewer, and practise counting objects carefully using one-to-one correspondence. Children will also begin to explore mathematical language linked to length, weight and capacity, use shapes in their play and artwork, with a focus on circles, and create simple repeating patterns. They will also begin to use language such as "one more" and "another one" when exploring number.

In Autumn 2, your child will build on their early mathematical skills with a focus on the number 2. They will explore representing numbers and quantities up to 2 using objects and marks, practise adding and taking away one, and begin to recognise quantities without counting (subitising). Children will also practise counting to 10, explore sharing equally, and develop their understanding of weight and capacity through play. They will also be introduced to the shape "square".

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Understanding the World

In Autumn 1, your child will explore the world around them through discussions, play and practical experiences. They will learn our routines and what we do on each day of the week. They will explore how they have changed from a baby, explore special events including their birthdays and how life at home may be similar or different to others. Children will explore their school environment, create simple maps and learn about animals, recycling, and how things can be heated and cooled. As part of our RE learning, we will learn about harvest and discover where food comes from.

In Autumn 2, your child will continue to explore and talk about the world around them through everyday experiences and conversations. They will discuss recent events, changes they notice in themselves and what they would like to play next. Children will meet members of our school community, including the School Council and as part of our RE learning, they will explore the Christmas story and how Christmas is celebrated. They will also discover the key features of autumn and what plants need to grow.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Autumn 1, your child will explore their creativity through art, music, construction and imaginative play. They will experiment with different painting and printing techniques, colours and materials, and use drawing to represent people and ideas. Children will enjoy building with a variety of construction materials, listening and responding to songs, exploring musical instruments and making their own sounds. They will also begin to use their imagination to re-enact familiar stories through play.

In Autumn 2, your child will continue to develop their creativity through art, design, music and imaginative play. They will practise using paintbrushes with greater control, explore sculpture and collage, and create salt-dough decorations as part of our Winter Market project. Children will enjoy joining in with whole-class singing and repeated refrains, while also using their imagination to give roles and meaning to materials during play.

Our Weekly Learning:

Each week, your child will be taught through a high-quality text, which changes weekly and provides opportunities to develop their language, imagination and understanding of the world. Your child will also take part in Dough Disco sessions to develop their fine motor strength and control, Pen Pals which focuses on both gross and fine motor control and Wiggle Before You Squiggle which supports their gross motor skills, coordination and control. They will enjoy Forest School every Tuesday and PE in our school hall every Wednesday. They do not require a separate PE kit. Alongside this, Phonics and Maths sessions take place daily to develop early reading, writing and number skills.

'Lulu Loves Nursery' by Camilla Reid

Nursery, new, friends, teachers, lunch time, classroom, outside, toilet

'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen

Adjectives from the story.
Grass, mud, forest, river, snow storm, bear, family, safe

'Sometimes I Feel Sunny' by Gillian Sheilds

Happy, sad, excited, scared

'Runaway Train' by Mathew Goldberg

Train, track, wheels, engine, vehicle, passengers, fast, faster, speed, forest, river, mountains, chugging, stop, slow

'All about Families' by Felicity Brooks

Parents, brother, sister, baby, older, younger, mum, dad, grandad, grandma

'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg


Bones, skeleton, big, little, night, house, sleep wake, funny, scary, quiet, dark

'An Autumn Day' by Alexandra Heard

Autumn, leaves, trees, farm, gigantic, hedgehog, prickly

'Oliver's Vegetables' by Vivian French

fruit, vegetables, harvest, grow, healthy, garden, sun, grandad, grandma, chips, potatoes, cabbage, beans, rhubarb, beetroot, carrots