

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

Nursery Curriculum Letter – Spring (1st half)

What a fantastic Autumn term we had. The children all settled into Nursery life beautifully, forming friendships with one another, building relationships with staff and following the golden rules and daily routines. They have learnt so much already and have shown us that they have a real thirst for knowledge in all areas of the curriculum. This letter will briefly outline some of the engaging learning your children will take part in this half term.

Our Core Values

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

Nursery Staffing

Nursery Manager- Mrs Halligan

Nursery Learning Support Assistants- Mrs Harrison and Miss Kelly.

Tuesday cover teacher- Mrs Robinson

Communication

You can email Mrs Halligan directly on the Nursery email account and she will do her best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

acornclass@harefieldinfant.com

Reading

Library (story) books will continue to come home every Wednesday. These can be changed on a Wednesday providing the previous book is returned. This will be a book for you to read and enjoy with your child. We recommend that you read to your child every day and encourage them to look at books independently. Please encourage your child to talk about the story by asking them questions like;

- What might happen next?
- Who were the characters?
- What did you like about it?
- What was your favourite part?

Spring Term 1 Learning

This term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be encouraging the children to be more independent in the nursery environment. Supporting them to help one another with tasks that they cannot do on their own, having a go at putting their own coats on and doing up the fastenings, using the toilets and

washing their hands and taking on the roles of fruit and milk monitors (helping the adults to give out the fruit and milk and tidy away, each day at snack time).

The children will be starting to have Brain breaks at the end of each Nursery day where they will take time to meditate, breathe and calm down and reflect on the nursery day.

We use a scheme called JIGSAW to deliver weekly PSED lessons. This term we will be learning the topic 'Dreams and Goals' This covers never giving up even when we find something difficult and always trying hard to achieve our goals. How we can encourage one another by saying kind things and supporting each other.

Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on communicating with one another using our words. We will be modelling how to start a conversation and listen to our friend's response, continuing to take turns. We will also be modelling how to use a sentence of 4 to 6 words or longer. Your child will be joining in with songs, actions and stories and learning new words of the week which will be displayed in the nursery window. We will be using story language such as first, next, after that and finally as part of our talk for writing scheme. We will also be learning names of different animals and where they live.

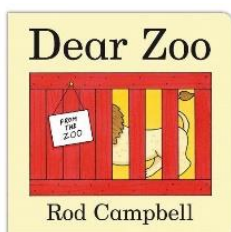
Remember that listening is a huge factor in being able to communicate with one another so please remind your child to put their listening ears on each morning.



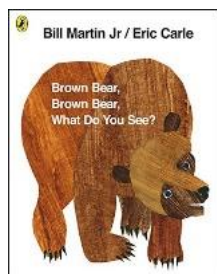
English

English runs hand in hand with Communication and Language, with all our work being carried out through the use of stories.

Our Key Text for this term are;



Dear Zoo is an interactive lift the flap story book that encourages whole class participation. The children will learn actions to retell the story as well as learning new language such as enormous, fierce, grumpy and perfect. They will be encouraged to re tell the story using the pictures and to make up their own version with different animals and why they sent them back. We will be exploring different animals and facts about them including where they live, what they eat and what noises they make.



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? Is a fun repetitive story that explores different animals and colours. Children can easily join in with repeated refrains and use their memory to predict which animal comes next. We will also read Polar Bear, Polar Bear what do you hear? Which explores the sounds the different animals make. We will compare the similarities and differences of the two stories.



"We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one!"

This story is always a firm favourite in nursery sparking excitement and adventure both indoors and outdoors. We will be going on our own Bear Hunts as we re-enact the story together. We will also work together to put sounds and actions to the story as well as creating a story map to retell the story using pictures.

Physical Development

Physical development is a hugely important part of your child's development and benefits them in a range of ways. We will be learning to balance on different obstacles and apparatus as well as how to move in a range of ways including hopping, skipping, jumping and walking on our tiptoes. We will be continuing our write dance programme which encourages the children to hold their pens with their pinching fingers and to move them in a variety of ways which will aid them to begin to write letters and draw simple shapes. There are a range of fine motor activities available to the children to explore each day and the children are making their finger muscles stronger by completing cutting activities, practising to write some letters from their names and using playdough.

Phonics



We are continuing to learn phase 1 phonics this half term and will be focusing on matching sounds we hear from animals, objects and musical instruments, adding sounds to stories and playing instruments in a range of ways to represent different characters and actions e.g. loud drums for stamping feet, quiet triangles for tiptoeing fairies.

We will then move onto rhyme, alliteration and oral blending and segmenting.

In the summer term we will begin to learn letters and sounds following the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. More information will be sent out regarding the nearer the time.

Mathematics

This half term we will be focusing on numbers 0-5 and consolidating our knowledge of these numbers by singing songs such as '5 little monkeys jumping on the bed' which counts down from 5 to 0. We will be matching quantity to the correct numeral, showing the correct amount of fingers from 0-5 and ordering and subitising numbers 0-5. We will also be comparing amounts using the language more than, less than and the same as. To support this learning we will provide opportunities to build towers using blocks and pebbles.

Finally we will be exploring weight, shape and capacity by using weighing scales and determining which objects are heavier, lighter or the same and having different sized containers in the sand and water to fill, empty and compare quantity. We will give children opportunities to count how many items it takes to fill a container eg. How many marbles will it take to fill the jar or how many corks to fill the bowl. We will explore writing numerals to 5 and representing our findings using marks such as a tick or a cross.



Look for numbers everywhere you go and point them out to your child, on a bus, your front door at the shops etc. This will help them to begin to recognise numbers.

Number Blocks on BBC is a great programme to support your children understanding of number.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Understanding the World

We will be delving into this area of the curriculum with our animal topic. The children will be learning lots of new information about the names of different animals, where they live, what they eat and what sounds they make. We will be using encyclopedias and atlas's to help us find information as well informational videos.

We will be exploring how things work and forces by carrying out experiments such as using magnets to collect metal items and taking windmills outside on windy days. We will make rain catchers to go in the garden and measure how much rain we have collected and will be planting daffodil bulbs ready for the spring.

We will also celebrate chinese new year with food tasting, dragon dancing and craft activities.



Expressive Arts and Design

This part of the curriculum will really come to life this term with animal paintings, building small worlds out of construction and playing musical instruments. The children will be learning to explore different materials freely to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make with support from an adult. To take part in pretend play with others by engaging in our new Safari explorer's area and to develop complex stories using small world equipment. They will go on bear hunts and arctic expeditions together as well as putting on a show for their friends singing one of their favourite songs and playing musical instruments.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email on the class email account.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Halligan
Nursery Manager