

Thursday 9th January 2025

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

Nursery Curriculum Letter – Spring Term (1st half)

What a fantastic autumn term we have had. The children all settled into Nursery life, forming friendships with one another, building relationships with staff and trying hard to follow the golden rules (most of the time). They have all learnt so much already and will continue on this journey as we enter the spring term. This letter will briefly outline some of the engaging learning your child 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- Miss Kelly, Miss Jones, Mrs Stubbings, Mrs Breen

Tuesday cover teacher- Mrs Mehta

Wednesday morning PPA cover teacher- Mrs Harrison

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 few working days.

acornclass@harefieldinfant.com

Reading

Library (story) books will continue to come home every Thursday. These can be changed on a Thursday 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 Learning

This half 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. 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 the names of different animals and where they live.

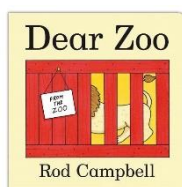
Remember that listening is a huge factor in being able to communicate with one another so please remind your child to put their listening ears on each morning.



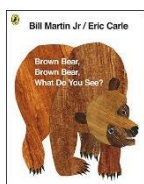
English

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

We will be continuing to follow our White Rose Maths scheme of learning through six different topics. These include;

- Joining in with repeats -through action songs and daily routines.
- Exploring position and space- through shapes and positional language.
- Show me 1,2,3- using finger rhymes and stories.
- Move and label 1,2,3- counting 3 objects in stories and rhymes such as 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears'.
- Explore position and routes- using stories such as 'Where's Spot'.
- Explore own first patterns- Noticing patterns which are all around us, such as the white lines on the road.



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