

## Literacy

Developing our phonics knowledge will be a key part of our day, working in small groups to identify the sounds within words. We will be learning to recognise our names and then writing them using a variety of tools. We will also explore the idea of writing for a purpose, making labels for things we make. Finally, our Talk for Writing sessions will be based around *It Was A Cold Dark Night* by Tim Hopgood, retelling the story, asking questions and creating our own version.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Our Artist of the half-term is Giuseppe Arcimboldo, and we will be exploring and imitating his work by making portraits from fruit! We will begin to learn to mix paints to create the colour we want, and will also learn to construct models using a range of materials. We will also talk a lot about our work, thinking about what we like, and the way we could improve our pictures.

## Physical Development

We will be learning to use lots of classroom tools safely and correctly, including scissors and climbing areas. We will also explore our outdoor areas and agree what we need to do to use them safely as well. We will begin to develop our fine motor skills through cutting, colouring, painting and mark making, as well as dough disco sessions. In our PE sessions with Mr Butler, we will work on improving our spatial awareness, finding space, travelling and stopping with control.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

To help us settle into our new environment we will be playing lots of 'getting to know you' games as well as learning class routines and rules. We will be playing turn-taking games to help us get used to playing with others, and will be introduced to different challenge areas within our classes.

## Communication and Language

We will be using chatter bags to encourage our children to talk about their family, places they have visited and their favourite things. During circle times we will be developing our speaking and listening skills by asking questions and sharing experiences. We will develop our ability to take turns and build on the ideas of others.

Throughout the term we will be learning lots of new nursery rhymes, using actions to help us remember them. We will also be learning a new sign each week, starting with key words like *please, thank you, yes, no and sorry.*

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



# ABOUT ME!

EARLY YEARS - AUTUMN 2024

## Mathematics

Our *Essentials for Counting* programme begins with lots of counting, ensuring we can consistently say number names in order, and then begin to link these to counting out groups of objects. We will represent numbers in lots of different ways, and then using words like 'more', 'less' and 'the same' to compare how many there are in each group. We will (of course) be singing lots of number songs, and will meet a different 'number of the week', starting with 1 and working our way up over the course of the term. We will look for opportunities to use our counting whenever possible, counting the people in our group, the number of blocks we need for a project, the books we have read and whatever else we can think of!

## Understanding the world

We will be talking about our families, sharing baby pictures and comparing the way we looked when we were younger with the way we look now. We will make and compare family trees, helping us to understand that all families are different and brilliant in their own ways. We will also be exploring healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

As the weather begins to change, we will be investigating autumn, going for walks in the local area and seeing how our local area transforms as the seasons change. We will learn about hibernation and look out for signs of animals getting ready for winter in our Forest School sessions.

## Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what they've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided lots of guidance on supporting your child at home: [www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/)

## Expressive Arts and Design

- Act out stories together, sing and dance to favourite songs or encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you - and maybe have a go at making something similar together at home.

## Physical Development

- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day. Talk about the things that you eat and drink, thinking about healthy choices (and the reasons why it's OK to eat a few unhealthy things from time to time).
- Build an obstacle course in the house or garden together, running (carefully) around benches or chairs, crawling under blankets and clambering through cardboard boxes.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Play turn-taking games together, and support your child in learning to wait for their turn and listen to others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings - can they name the emotion? What does it 'feel like' inside? What has made them feel that way?

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



# ALL ABOUT ME!

EARLY YEARS - AUTUMN 2024

## Communication and Language

- We use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at [eylj.org](http://eylj.org). Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Talk about favourite things with different people in your family, helping your child to understand what likes you share - and to realise that we don't all like the same things.
- Sing nursery rhymes together - can your child tell you about the ones they have learnt at school?

## Mathematics

- Keep practicing counting, whenever and wherever possible - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practice saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practicing number names, too.

## Understanding the world

- Talk about your family and the people in it. Look at pictures of people when they were younger and talk about the way that we change as we grow up and get older. You could even try making your own family tree together to show how everyone is related.
- When you're out and about, look for signs of autumn and talk about how the environment changes. Collect conkers or acorns, exploring what these feel like (and practicing counting them too). Can you see signs of animals getting ready for winter?
- Look for (and talk about) other changes linked to the colder weather - what different clothes do we wear?