

Literacy

We will be reading, listening to and talking about our core texts, and using these to help us to share experiences and memories from our own lives. We will also talk about (and share) our favourite books, thinking about the reasons why we like them. Throughout the term, we will continue to work on our letter shapes, aiming to all write our names correctly. Alongside this, we will develop our phonics knowledge, matching letters to sounds and starting to read simple words.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will learn to draw with increasing detail, looking carefully at things in the world around us and developing our ability to precisely control brushes, pens and markers. We will create self-portraits by looking at ourselves in the mirror and compare the way we looked when we were younger with the way we look now.

Physical Development

Daily activities, including cutting, threading and tracing will give us lots of opportunities to develop our fine motor skills. Central to this is our pencil control, which we need to secure so that we can make clear letter shapes. We will also develop our gross motor skills through jumping, pedalling and climbing, as well as moving like the animals that we meet in our topic - so we'll be hopping, jumping and slithering around class!

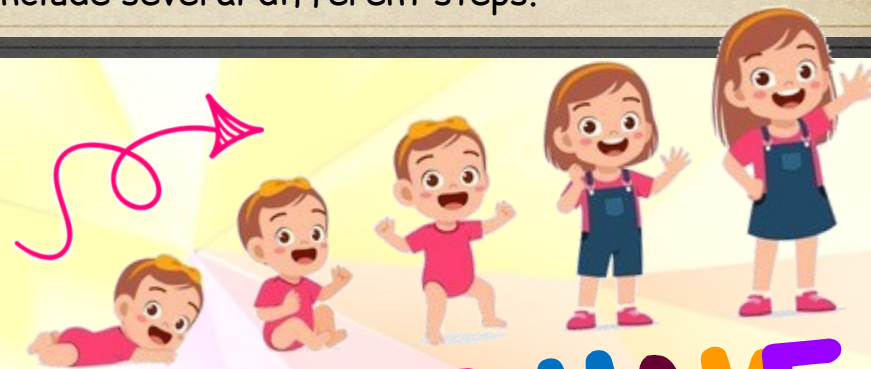
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be talking about our feelings, learning to identify and name our emotions and recognising how they make us feel inside. We will also be developing our turn taking-skills, playing lots of group games and acting out stories together, as well as learning to follow instructions that include several different steps.

Communication and Language

We will continue to develop our vocabulary through our words and signs of the week, all linking in with our core stories. We will have lots of opportunities to talk about ourselves, the things we do and the way we have grown this year, and will be encouraged to listen carefully to others. This will, in turn, help us to be able to connect the things that other people say to our own experiences, recognising what makes us similar and what makes us unique. Finally, we will be retelling stories that we know well, thinking about the key parts of the story that we need to include and working in groups to act them out.

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



HOW WE HAVE CHANGED!

LADYBIRDS - SUMMER 2026

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring patterns and comparison. We will learn to put things in order of size, using language like *larger, smaller, tallest and shortest*, and will use these skills to compare the size of different animals. We will also use 2d shapes to create repeating patterns and collages linked to our animals topic, naming and describing the shapes that we use. Throughout the term we will continue to develop our counting and number recognition skills, matching the number of objects in a group to the digit that represents that number and answering the key question, "How many are there?"

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 also think about the people who are familiar and important to us, helping us to understand that all families are different and brilliant in their own ways. In addition, we will be exploring healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

As the weather continues to change, we will be investigating Spring and Summer, going for walks in the local area and seeing how the natural world transforms with the seasons.

Literacy

- Sharing stories 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 the story. Can they remember phrases from the story? Which characters do they particularly like?
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Have a go at some of the fab art activities on the Tate Kids site: www.tate.org.uk/kids/make
- Act out stories together and 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.

Physical Development

- Build an obstacle course in the park or garden together, running (carefully) around benches or chairs, crawling under blankets and clambering through cardboard boxes.
- Play games together that involve kicking, throwing and catching balls.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day.

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:



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Communication and Language

- We will continue to 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. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Make up silly sentences together where every word has to start with the same letter or the words all rhyme.
- When you're sharing stories with your child, ask them what they think will happen next or how the story might end.

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!
- 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.
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.

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.
- Share pictures of other places or countries you have visited - how are these places similar to our local area? How are they different? What did you enjoy about visiting these places?
- Continue looking for (and talking about) changes in our environment linked to the seasons. Can you see signs that plants and animals are growing more now that Spring has arrived?