



Early Years

This half term we will be covering a range of different celebrations and stories. This week, we are starting with Bonfire night, the story of Guy Fawkes and Diwali. We will follow this with some fantastic winter stories including 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'Stick Man', leading into the Nativity and Christmas stories.

This half term, we are introducing 'Plan, Do and Review' with the children. This means that, each day, the children are told about the activities and opportunities available in our Early Years' setting and asked to tell their friends what they would like to go and do. Nursery children will just indicate what they would like to do, whereas the reception children will be encouraged to explain their choices. At the end of the morning and afternoon the children are then asked to review what they have been up to during the session. This will start as a verbal activity, but soon reception children will be recording their responses in writing.

Prime Areas:

Communication and Language

Communication continues to be a vital part of the children's education. This half term as previously mentioned we are introducing 'Plan, Do and Review'. This requires the children to take turns in conversation (helped by a blow up microphone!) and listen to one another. The children are encouraged to plan and review their play using full sentences and verbalising their full stops. Children will continue to join in with and learn new songs and rhymes linked with stories/themes. Much of this will be linked to our Christmas performances. We will be encouraging the children to use their words to communicate when they are unhappy about things, for example, 'Please don't do that' when a friend does something they don't like, and key manners such as 'Excuse me' or 'Please can I have a turn?'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development continues to occur through incidental activities and planned group activities. We will continue to work on being good friends, taking turns and sharing fairly with our toys and equipment. We will praise and reward the children for using good manners. Some of the Personal, Social and Emotional development will be through Role-play in the different zones of the Unit. We will also be focusing on developing the children's confidence to perform in front of an audience through the Christmas performances.

Physical Development

Fine motor skills continue to be a big part of our daily activities. Every day all the children will participate in 'Dough Disco', which is an activity where the children use their fingers in playdough to music. This activity develops their brain connection with their hands and fingers as well as developing movement in all fingers. We will continue to work on specific skills such as pencil grip and control and scissor skill.

Gross motor skills will continue to be developed in the Green zone on bikes, scooters, the climbing frame and through running. However, this half term, the children will be introduced to specific PE/movement sessions in the hall, where they will use their imagination in dance as well as developing their balance and moving in different ways.

This half term the children will only be taking their shoes, socks and jumpers off. Reception children will need their PE kits after Christmas.



Specific Areas:

Literacy/Phonics:

Nursery: children will continue to work on instrumental, environmental sounds as well as rhyme and rhythm. They will begin to think about how many syllables in words and some children will begin to identify the initial sound of their name. The children will be encouraged to mark make for a variety of purposes, such as writing letters, labels and stories, as well as making lists and cards.

Reception: children will continue their daily phonic sessions, developing at their own pace. Every week, all children will be heard reading their individual reading book by an adult. Within their classes, the children will have a daily whole group reading session, concentrating on key book skills such as title, author and recall and predicting skills. There will be opportunities for writing throughout all the zones in the Unit. Children will be encouraged to participate in these activities at their own level.

Mathematics:

Nursery: children will be concentrating on becoming confident with recognising, using and counting numbers within 10. They will join in with number songs and rhymes, as well as number stories and using numbers in role-play situations. We will introduce, talk about and use simple 2D shapes as well as begin to solve simple problems.

Reception: children will have a daily number session in small groups. We will be working on numbers within 20, including some simple addition and subtraction problems. They will learn about and identify the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Number activities are also offered through play activities and focused tasks offered in all the zones of the Unit.



Expressive Arts and Design

This half term we will be concentrating on colour; identifying and using colours as well as mixing colours in a variety of ways. The children will explore colour through different painting techniques such as flicking, sponging, printing etc. We will be working creatively to make different models and pictures linked to the stories we are exploring. We will also experiment with musical instruments to accompany songs and rhymes.

Many of the new songs introduced this half-term will be linked to our Christmas performance.

Understanding the World

The children will be exploring the celebrations Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas, finding out about what kind of celebrations they are, who celebrates them and why.

As the days get shorter and darker, we will look at Light and Dark, experimenting with torches and other light sources. We will be experimenting with ice and investigating its properties through our water play. We will also be adding colours to the water and investigating the changes effected by light. We will continue with our German learning and later on in the half term, Frau Linfoot will be teaching us about Christmas traditions in Germany. The children will be developing their skill at navigating and completing simple computer programs associated with our various topics. As well as having opportunities to use cameras to take photos of all the fun we get up to in the Unit!

Dates for your Diary:

Stay and Play days – Wednesday 13th Nov to Fri 15th Nov

Nursery Parents' Appointment Day – Tuesday 12th November

Christmas Productions

Class 1 and Morning Nursery – 11th and 13th Dec 9.30-10.30am

Class 2 and Afternoon Nursery – 10th and 12th Dec 2.15-3.15pm

Christmas and Magician day – Thursday 19th December 1-3pm

End of Term - Friday 20th December

