

Physical Development

Fine motor skills – the children practise cutting skills, colouring and manipulating playdough. We also incorporate a range of building blocks, threading and jigsaws into continuous provision.

Gross motor skills – children are encouraged to develop their strength, balancing and coordination during outdoor play and forest school sessions. We will be learning some superhero dance moves using YouTube videos.

We will be learning about Chinese New Year w/c 29th January.

Maths

In maths sessions with their keyworker, the older children will be learning about numbers 4, 5 and 6 (subitising, counting and numerals). All children will be encouraged to use Numicon and build their confidence with the colours of the tiles.



Our number songs during this block are '3 Blind Mice', '3 Little Kittens', '5 Snowmen', '4 Teddy Bears', '5 Fingers'.

Block 2

What Makes a Superhero?



We have a short 5-week half-term to fit in lots of exciting activities for our topic. We have welcomed 14 new children this week who are settling in well and making new friends. We have lots of lovely texts to share with the class as well as opportunities for role play, crafts and baking. Our Forest School sessions will all be based on the 'Superworm' story by Julia Donaldson.

English

Phonics – We are now ready to start our Little Wandle phonics sessions in keyworker groups every day. The short sessions include games which help the children learn about rhyme, alliteration and letter sounds.

Reading – We have a lovely selection of stories for this topic which we will be reading as a whole class as well as in small groups. During free choice time the children are encouraged to choose their own books to share with each other or with an adult.

Writing – Children will be developing mark making skills using colouring tools inside and chalk outside. We will also help their development by practising big movements with their arms (gross motor skills) in different writing motions such as up/down, circles and squiggles.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 19th January – 2.55pm Kidnap the Parents reading event (in the classroom).
- Friday 9th February 8.45 until 10am – Valentine's Coffee Morning (in Classroom) – all welcome.
- Friday 9th February – Break up for half-term, non-uniform day.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be using the SCARF unit 'People who help me and keep me safe'. Children will be able to:

- Explain what they should do if they feel unsafe.
- Recognise potential dangers and how to stay safe, inside and outside.
- Learn the importance of keeping safe around medicines and unknown products.
- Name key relatives/care givers at home and those who care for them in their education settings.
- Recognise a 'funny tummy' feeling when something feels wrong or unsafe and say what to do.
- Talk about what makes them feel safe.

Nursery Rhyme Time & Singing

Each week we have a nursery rhyme which we sing every day. Please see our FS1 page on the school website to find out which rhymes we will be using over the coming weeks.

Important Information

- Please remember to send your child in with a warm, waterproof coat when necessary and ensure that it is **named** along with all their other items of clothing and footwear including wellies for Forest School. MyNametags are a company who give the school 24% commission on any name labels ordered using this link: <https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=66624>. A fab way of not losing items of clothing, bags, lunch items etc and also making a bit of money for the school! The school id is 66624 if you don't use the link.



- Please remember to contribute £1.00 to the 'Winnie the Pooh Money Box' in Nursery on a weekly basis. These funds are crucial in providing additional snack, making playdough and weekly baking/cooking sessions.
- If you include grapes in your child's packed lunch, please ensure they are cut in half lengthways or smaller to avoid them being a choking hazard.



In recent years we have noticed an increase in the need for speech and language intervention and much of this is due to the use of dummies and bottles. If your child still uses a dummy or bottle with a teat, could we please respectfully ask you to discontinue their use as soon as possible, encouraging your child to give their dummy to the 'Dummy Fairy' now that they have started school. If you need any help with this please speak to us or contact your Health Visitor or Children's Centre.



Similarly, if your child is still struggling with toilet training please seek advice from your Health Visitor who will be able to offer tips and tricks suitable for your child. Please also use this link for NHS advice <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/potty-training-and-bedwetting/how-to-potty-train/>. If your child is on the brink of getting there, please send them in pants with some changes of clothes. It's much better for them to know the sensation of being wet and want to avoid it, rather than wearing a nappy or pull up.