

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. Children are taught how to hold and use scissors and these are freely available in our provision. Gross motor skills – children are encouraged to develop their strength, balancing and coordination during outdoor play and forest school sessions.

Maths

In maths sessions with their keyworker, the older children will be learning about the numbers 5 and 6, height and length, mass and capacity. 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 Sing a Song of Sixpence, I'm a Little Bean, When Goldilocks Went To The House of The Bears, Five Cheeky Monkeys Swinging Through The Trees.

Block 4 How Does It Grow?

In this block of learning the children will be finding out about farm animals and their babies, human and plant lifecycles. We will be using a selection of non-fiction and fiction stories to engage the children.

Our Forest School sessions will be based on The Little Red Hen, Rosie's Walk and What The Ladybird Heard.

English

Phonics – The older children are enjoying their Little Wandle phonics groups with their keyworker. This half-term we will be learning the sounds o, c/k, e, u,r. Our youngest children will be focusing on environmental sounds, songs, rhymes and stories.

Reading – We have a lovely selection of stories and non-fiction books 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. Those children who are ready will be starting to learn how to write their name with a capital letter followed by lower case letters.

Dates for your Diary

- World Book Day – Thurs 7th March
- Mother's Day breakfast – Fri 8th March
- Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March
- Last day of term – Thursday 28th March (Non-Uniform Day)

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be using the SCARF unit 'Growing and Changing'. Children will be able to:

- Talk about change in the environment.
- Describe the changes in babies, young animals and plants as they grow.
- Broaden their expectations beyond potential stereotypes of what girls and boys like, do or look like.

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.

Talk For Writing

Our story for this half-term is Stuck in the Mud. We will learn to imitate the text before innovating it with our own ideas.

Important Information – updated

- 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 help your child increase in independence by encouraging them to put on their own coat and shoes. We would also like all children to be confident at drinking from a cup without a lid and to be able to eat a whole apple and peel a small orange.
- 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.
- We will no longer be requesting donations of £1 per week from parents.



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.