Hallam Primary School

Nursery Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn 1 2026

Literacy

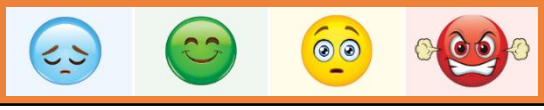
Our topic this half term is 'All About Me". We will be reading different books to help us understand who we are and what makes us special. These books will cover the understanding of our feelings and how we are all unique. We will look at different things we love about ourselves, our family and our friends.

Phonics

During this half term we will start to develop our pre reading skills. This will involve noticing different sounds we hear in different environments (animals, vehicles, speech and instruments). We will listen to different nursery rhymes and music. This will support children tuning into different sounds and patterns they hear.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will be introducing *Zones of Regulations*, looking at different feelings – happy, sad, angry and tired/silly. We will explore what might cause those feelings and how they might present and find different ways we can cheer ourselves up. This will support us in having a great day, even if we are missing our grown-ups.



Communication and Language

To support our understanding, we will be listening to familiar books and talking about what is happening in the book and answering simple questions, sometimes using pictures to support. We will focus on using our words to explain our wants and needs, rather than using actions.

Physical Development

We will be developing our motor skills in daily pre-writing sessions. For our fine motor development, we will be doing 'Dough Disco' where we use the muscles in our hands to manipulate the playdough. For gross motor development we will be doing exploring our outdoor spaces, learning how to keep ourselves and others safe.
For other fine motor development, we will be introducing scissor skills with the *Thumbs up* method, using a range of pencils, chalks and paintbrushes for mark making.
Our gross motor will be developed as we take controlled risks in jumping and climbing in the outdoor areas.

Maths

At the beginning of each day, we do *Maths Meeting* where we sing the days of the week song and discuss which day it is today, what day it was yesterday and what day it will be tomorrow. We will look at our Number of the Week, where we look at the numeral, do actions to the amount, look at that number of objects, see if we can find that many of something (up to 3 and then repeated)

Understanding the World

We will be exploring the outdoor spaces, noticing any changes in the weather and environment around us. We will be talking about our families and people close to us and how we are all different.

Expressive Arts and Design

We are learning how to access the creative areas in the classroom such as model making, role play and painting with the support of an adult.
We will be singing a range of songs and rhymes, dressing up and exploring rhythm and sound using our musical instruments.

Extra Information

- Please label all clothing, shoes and pack lunches!
- Send your child with the appropriate clothing /protection for outdoor play. We will be going out in all weathers, a puddle suit or waterproof coat and trousers would be best and a pair of wellies.
- Please keep at least 1 spare change of clothes in your child's bag, including socks and shoes
- Bring a labelled water bottle to school each day.
- Any changes with who will be collecting your child, please inform a member of staff or call the school office during the day.
- If you need to speak to school during the day please contact school on 0114 2304430 or email enquiries@hallam.sheffield.sch.uk
- If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the nursery team.

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Supporting independence

Here are some ways we support children in becoming more independence, it would be great for the children to practise these skills at home too. All of these are skills the children are still learning and we will always help your child. By allowing them to give it a go empowers them to feel more grown up.

- Pulling up pants and trousers. After using the toilet, we will explain and guide children to be more independent in pulling up their pants and trousers
- Putting on their coat. We lay the coat down on the floor and tell the child to stand at the hood. From there they can put their hands in the arm holes and flip it over their head
- Wiping their bottom. We do not expect children to do this independently but we make this a "team effort". We will clean their bottom, explaining what we are doing. Once it is clean, we ask the child to have a go at wiping to check its all clean. This helps to practise the movements with no pressure.
- Wiping their nose. Encouraging them to use both hands either side of the nose and pinching and repeating that if it doesn't feel clean – we model this on ourselves to support understanding.

Finally!

We would love to display photographs of children and their families within the classrooms. Can you please send in a photograph of your child and their family at your earliest convenience? This can be a printed-out photo or emailed to awinfield@hallam.sheffield.sch.uk with the title "family photo"

Thank you,

Miss Winfield, Miss Strafford and Miss Watson