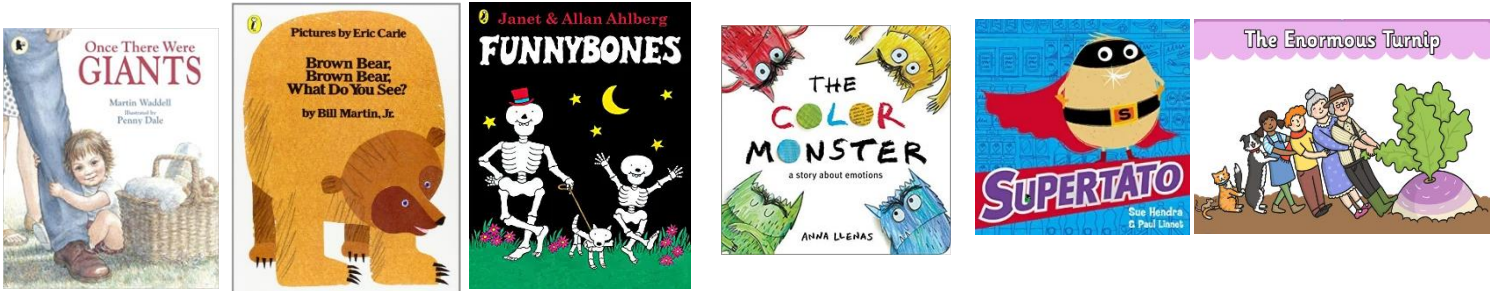


Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is an overview of what your child will be learning this half term across the different areas of learning. Our topic for the first half of the Autumn term is called '**I wonder what makes us special?**'. The topics we choose are led by the children's interests and usually encompass several areas of learning. For this reason, the topics may change to reflect the direction the children wish to take their learning.

Each week we will be taking on a different theme using the following books as part of our week's main focus.



This half term in our **Literacy** we will be using lots of books as a stimulus for learning. Our senses week is inspired by the books *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* and *Polar Bear, Polar bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle as well as non-fiction books about our senses. We will be learning about how much we have changed from a baby until now and what other changes we will go through using the book *Once there were Giants* by Martin Waddell. *The Colour Monster* by Anna Lenas's will help us talk about how we are feeling at different times. *Funnybones* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg will inspire our learning on skeletons and we will discuss being a superhero using the *Supertato* series of books by Sue Hendra as our stimulus. We will practice writing our name as well as forming our letters accurately and we will encourage the children to use their letter knowledge in their writing.

This half term in our **Mathematics** we will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes using the mathematical language of *sides, corners, straight, flat* and *round* to describe the shapes, as well as naming the shapes. We will be counting objects, actions and sounds, putting numbers in the correct order, copying, continuing and creating repeating patterns as well as investigating the size and weight of different objects using comparative language.



We will have a weekly circle time to encourage the children to talk about their thoughts and feelings as part of our **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**. This half term our focus will be to build the relationships children have with both adults and peers within the school environment. We will develop the children's ability to express their own feelings as well as considering the feelings of others. We will also be learning how to continue to manage our own needs e.g. by using the toilet independently, washing hands, managing our fruit snacks and lunchboxes and using cutlery for our hot dinners.

Through our 'I wonder what makes us special?' topic, we will use our **Understanding of the World** to talk about members of our own family and people who are familiar to us. We will use our senses to describe what we can see, hear and feel whilst outside. We will celebrate Harvest and look at the effects of the changing seasons on the natural world around us.



In our **Physical Development** we will develop the skills to manage the school day successfully, lining up, queuing, mealtimes, personal hygiene etc. We will have PE lessons once a week, taught by Mr Broughton, where we will be developing our skills of rolling, crawling, walking, jumping, running, hopping, skipping and climbing. We will continue to develop our fine motor skills in order to hold a pencil effectively and use a range of small tools including scissors.



In our **Expressive Arts and Design**, we will continue to build a repertoire of songs and dances. We will develop story lines into pretend play and we will explore vocal, body, instrumental and environmental sounds in our music lessons. We will use and explore a variety of materials to make self portraits and skeletons amongst other craft activities.



Our first half term is all about settling the children into a school routine and making relationships with both adults and peers within the school community.

We will send home a library book to share with your child as well as a picture book for your child to tell you a story using the pictures as a stimulus. We will include a sticker in your child's Home School Book giving a brief outline of the activities that will be coming up each week.

Please check the Home School Books daily and please use them to communicate with us or email us on

jane.fox@hanslope.milton-keynes.sch.uk

emma.pearson@hanslope.milton-keynes.sch.uk

lisa.lawrence@hanslope.milton-keynes.sch.uk

We will respond to emails as soon as we can. If you have any questions or need any support or advice please do not wait until parents evening to discuss anything with us!

We look forward to working with you and your child in the year ahead.

The Foundation Stage team.