



HANSLOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Foundation Stage

Curriculum Newsletter



OUR LEARNING - AUTUMN 1

I wonder what makes us special?

A simple guide to this half term and ways you can help at home



OUR BIG QUESTION

What makes each of us unique?

Settling in, belonging, families, feelings and change

English & Maths

Our Topic

Other Areas of Learning

Literacy

We will use stories and non-fiction books to inspire talk, drawing and early writing. We will discuss how we have changed since we were babies, explore feelings and celebrate what makes every child special. Children will retell familiar stories, join in with repeated phrases and begin to give meaning to the marks they make.

Phonics and early writing

Daily phonics lessons will introduce new sounds and teach children to listen carefully, orally blend and segment, and begin to blend taught sounds to read simple words. We will practise pencil control through patterns, shapes and letter formation, building an effective pencil grip.

Mathematics

Children will match, sort and compare objects, noticing what is the same and what is different. We will begin to subitise small quantities by recognising how many objects there are without counting each one. We will explore repeating patterns and learn to copy, continue and create them. Through practical play, we will use everyday language linked to length, weight and capacity.

How you can help at home



Share, notice and talk

Read together every day. Encourage your child to retell a story from the pictures and spot familiar sounds. Practise coat fastenings, using cutlery, holding a pencil and using scissors safely. Sort household objects, make repeating patterns and compare which items are longer, heavier or hold more.

Our weekly book focus

- Once There Were Giants - growing and changing
- The Colour Monster - recognising and talking about feelings
- A Superpower Like Mine - celebrating individuality
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt - families, journeys and repeated language
- Autumn information books - seasonal change
- The Enormous Turnip - a traditional tale about teamwork



Understanding the World

Children will talk about their family and people who are familiar to them. We will explore our local community, name the village where we live and use maps and Google Earth to look at the journey to school. We will celebrate Harvest and observe the effects of autumn on the natural world.

Communication and Language

Stories, songs, circle times and learning conversations will help children listen, take turns and express their ideas. Adults will model new vocabulary and encourage children to speak in full sentences, ask questions and share their experiences.

How you can help at home



Talk about our topic

Share family photographs and talk about who is important to your child. Discuss things you enjoy doing together and what makes each person special. On your journey, notice familiar places, signs of autumn and changes in the weather.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our priority is helping every child feel safe, happy and ready to learn. Weekly circle times will support friendships, kindness and naming emotions. Children will learn classroom routines, consider the feelings of others and develop independence with toileting, handwashing, snacks, lunchboxes and cutlery.



Physical Development

In weekly PE lessons, children will practise listening and following instructions, balancing, jumping and landing safely. Dough Disco, movement activities and fine-motor tasks will strengthen the muscles needed for writing and help children use pencils, scissors and other tools with increasing control.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children will build a repertoire of songs and dances, develop storylines in pretend play and explore vocal, body, instrumental and environmental sounds. In the creation station, they will choose resources, learn ways to join materials and create self-portraits. We will also explore nature art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.

Books and communication

Your child will bring home a library book to share and a picture book to use for storytelling. Weekly information will be added to the Home-School Book. Please check it daily and use it to communicate with us, or email Joanna.Piacquadio@hanslope.milton-keynes.sch.uk or Tracey.Byott@hanslope.milton-keynes.sch.uk. We will respond as soon as we can.

Topics are responsive to the children's interests, so learning may develop in new and exciting directions. Please contact us whenever you need support - there is no need to wait until parents' evening. We look forward to working with you and your child. The Foundation Stage Team