



# NURSERY CURRICULUM LETTER

We hope that these letters will keep you informed of all that is happening in Nursery. We hope you will use these to support your child with their learning.

## Nursery Staff

Mrs Naik is the class teacher, and our wonderful assistants are Mrs Reddy and Miss Worden who are always there to help. Mrs Nelson works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday supporting children with speech and language interventions.

## THEME

This half term our topic is 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden'. We will be looking at seeds that come from plants and how we care for plants. We will also look at the key features of a life cycle of a plant and animals.

The books we will be looking at are: -

Week 1 – Non-fiction - Spring

Week 2 and 3 – The Enormous Turnip

Week 4 – The Hungry Caterpillar

Week 5 – Jasper's Beanstalk

Week 6 – Jack and Bean Stalk

Week 7 – Incy Wincy Spider and Little Miss Muffet

During reading sessions, we will be looking at lots of books for enjoyment and your child will be able to vote on a book they want to listen to everyday.

**This is what we are focusing on in the 7 areas of learning over the next half term.**

## Communication and Language

The children will be expected to respond and follow simple instructions and will be taught to be good listeners through the teaching of phonics. They will be encouraged to join in with repetition in rhymes and stories. Children will be encouraged to listen to longer stories and be able to retell part of them. On a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the children will take part in a speech and language program with Mrs Nelson. This will introduce the children to a wide range of vocabulary so they can extend the sentences that they are using.

## Personal, social and emotional development

The children will be encouraged to follow the nursery rules and be supported to be assertive in the appropriate ways when conflicts occur. We will be looking at friendships and what makes a good friend. The children will be encouraged to talk about how they feel and why.



## Physical development

Everyday there will be activities linked to gross and small motor skills. Children will have lots of opportunities to develop their cutting skills, they will be taught to hold scissors, snip and cut. They will be supported in knowing how to hold a pencil using the tripod grip and then forming letters. The children will be supported in developing their co-ordination and agility by using the apparatus to balance and move along in different ways.

## Literacy

There will be opportunities for all children to make marks using large and small scales equipment. There will be lots of practice at recognising and writing their names whether it be the first letter or their full name. Children will be encouraged to give meaning to their marks they make and write for different purposes such as writing a list. There will be lots of emphasis on reading in small groups, showing children where you start to read, looking at how the front and back covers and how to turn pages. We will also explore how the text on pages tells a story or gives us information.

## Mathematics

We will continue to focus on using number names accurately during play. We will do lots of large movements to count and move our bodies such as stamping, clapping, jumping etc. Children will be encouraged to recognise, match and talk about shapes of everyday objects. We will be looking at patterns in the environment and will also make our own patterns. The children will be using pennies to buy items in our Garden Centre. This will help with one-to-one correspondence. We will also have various plant pots to encourage the language of size.

## Understanding the world

We have created a Garden Centre outside which the children can role play in and at the same time gain a new experience. The outside sand pit is full of soil so the children can pretend to do their own planting. We will be growing cress, sunflower seeds and beans, which the children will be responsible for growing and looking after themselves. We will also be making Mr/Mrs Grass Heads and again the children will need to look after their own. We will look at the life cycle of plants that we grow and will also have some caterpillars so that we can observe the life cycle of a butterfly.



## Expressive arts and design

Children will be encouraged to make and act out complex stories using small world equipment. The children will be able to experiment mixing colours using paint, coloured water and corn flour. We will also be doing lots of singing and moving to music.

## TOILET TRAINING

Please ensure that your child is either toilet trained or is at the early stages of training. If you are struggling with this, please come and speak to a member of our staff. Most children should now be out of nappies unless they have a specific need.

### Things to do to help your child.

- Ask your child what they have been doing at Nursery.
- Encourage your child to count at any opportunity. For example, as they are climbing the stairs, count family members, count out knives and forks etc.
- Sing different nursery rhymes with your child
- Sound talking objects around the house e.g. can you get your c-oo-t

#### Useful Websites

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/misc/games/misc-colourmixcottage/>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ichFurs9a8>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/green-balloon-club/games/green-balloon-clubgiggleswickpark/>