

St Thomas More R.C. Primary – Early Years (Nursery & Reception)
What I am Learning – Autumn 1: All About Me



Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
Communication & Language	During this half term we will be spending lots of time getting to know each other and we will be discussing ourselves, what we like/dislike, what we look like, our facial features, what makes us special, our families, our pets and our favourite things. We will be participating in lots of Circle Time activities that encourage us to share information about ourselves, listen to others and develop our knowledge and understanding of our peers and classroom rules and routines. Linking with our theme and texts, we will be talking about different types of families and sharing information about those who are special to us. We will be using vocabulary linked to our theme and we will be encouraging the children to use this vocabulary as they play in class.	Mathematics	We will be singing lots of number songs and rhymes, counting how many children are in school today and exploring our Maths Area throughout the day. We will also begin our daily Maths sessions. For Nursery children, we follow the White Rose Maths scheme and we will be working on beginning to compare and recognise changes in the number of objects, saying number names in order, taking 2 or 3 objects from a larger set, exploring size and using the language 'big, bigger, small, smaller' and talking about repeats they can hear in songs and creating patters. For Reception children, we follow the NCETM Mastering Number scheme plus some additional resources from White Rose Maths throughout the year. Reception children will be working on subitising 1/2/3, representing numbers in a given way using different objects, matching quantities to numerals, making arrangements to subitise, counting carefully, saying one number name for each object they count (one-to-one correspondence) and we will also be looking at the composition of 2, 3 and 4.
Physical Development	During this half term we will be working on developing our fine and gross motor skills. We will begin our 'Wiggle me into a Squiggler/Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions – a scheme that encourages lots of 'big' movements that develops gross motor skills, co-ordination and strength which in turn will develop the muscles and movements for fine motor skills. We will also begin our 'Dough Disco' sessions each day – a scheme we use to exercise for the fingers to improve fine motor control and gross motor skills. Doing these simple, fun exercises will help your child prepare for writing. Reception children will also begin their weekly PE sessions. PE day details will be issued in due course. We will initially begin by getting the children used to working in the hall space for PE and then work on basic movements/skills.	Understanding the World	We will be spending time sharing information about ourselves but also finding out about one another. We will also explore our families and talk about who is in our family, their relationship to us and the things we like to do with our families. We will also familiarise ourselves with the school environment (once we have settled into EYFS!) and go on some walks around the school site. We will also be discussing 'Autumn' during the later weeks of the half term. We will go for an Autumn walk around the school grounds and look for any signs of Autumn, collect leaves and collect any other natural resources we can find to use back in class.

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Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will be familiarising ourselves with the school day, routine, expectations, new friends and adults. We will be encouraging the children to be independent in managing their own self-care and working on tasks such as putting on/taking off coats/cardigans/jumpers, putting our belongings on our pegs, putting used tissues into the bin and washing out hands, managing the bathroom with independence plus we will be exploring our three school rules – ‘Ready, Respectful and Safe.’ We will be exploring different feelings and behaviours during this half term and talking about them. Linking with our themed work, we will be talking about ourselves and others and identify similarities and differences. We will also be talking about our families and how families differ.	Expressive Arts & Design	We will be exploring paints in different ways over this half term. We will be painting portraits of ourselves, looking closely at the colours that we will need to use for our facial features. We will also work in our Transient Art area to create images of ourselves using a variety of resources. We will also explore Art outdoors and create some Autumnal artwork during our Autumn walk.
Literacy	During our Literacy sessions, we will be sharing different parts of our focus texts as we work through the stories. We will be talking about ourselves, our likes/dislikes, what makes us unique, our favourite things to do, our families and why we love them. Nursery children will begin to explore Phase 1 Phonics during this half term, this will be worked on in short, daily sessions with the focus for this first half term being ‘Environmental Sounds.’ Reception children will begin daily RWI (Read Write Inc) Phonics sessions. Initially these sessions will be in whole classes (following the guidance of the scheme). After a number of weeks, we will then place the children into smaller groups linked to their phonics assessment.	RE	During this half term, we will be learning our new Prayers and Hymns. During our RE sessions, we will be working on ‘Branch 1’ of our RE scheme ‘Lighting the Path.’ We will be exposing the children to the concept that in Christian belief, all that is comes from God. We will be exploring the ‘Creation Story’ (Genesis 1:1 -4, 24-25, 26-27, 28-31) and we will talk about how God made our world beautiful and he made everything in it. We will read from the Bible and encourage the children to handle this special book with care and respect. We will also explore how God made us all and that he loves each of us. We will also explore the concept of ‘Stewardship’ and explore what God said when he made the world ‘Indeed it is very good.’ We will also explore how the whole of the Creation Story shows God’s love for us all and how we must celebrate and look after God’s world. We will explore ‘Laudato Si’ – Pope Francis’ letter, the words and actions of the Sign of the Cross and we will learn more about God’s Family, Baptism and Baptismal Signs. During this half term we will also celebrate our Class Saint’s (St Francis of Assisi) Feast Day!