



Across this half term, children become more settled and gain a deeper understanding of the routines and rules of Nursery. As children become more familiar with the setting and adults within it, we can deepen our understanding of them as little people. What are their interests, who are their family and friends? What is their culture and what are their family beliefs? Our exploration of nature and outdoors provides the perfect backdrop for learning as we approach Winter. Frosty, icy and snowy days give a myriad of opportunities to develop language and understanding, exploring new concepts and ways to do things.

### **Communication and Language:**

#### ***Talking focus- Talking about our own experiences***

The 'You and Me' topic gives children the opportunity to talk about themselves and the things that are important to them. Adults will continue to model and explore new vocabulary with the children, linking this to their interests and play. Children will be encouraged to use and apply these new words in different contexts. Adults will continue to observe and where appropriate join children's play, modelling how to use talk to organise thinking, and encouraging children to do this, for example: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver." Children will be supported to follow instructions and adults will use research-based strategies to support communication and language development.



### **Literacy:**

The focus for Literacy across Autumn term is to develop the understanding of the five key concepts about print:

- print has meaning
- print can have different purposes
- we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- the names of the different parts of a book
- page sequencing

Adults will develop this understanding through play-based approaches, using books within areas of learning, and through carefully planned adult-led activities. Children will be encouraged to explore mark making; for example, drawing a picture and sometimes talking about what it is. (Beginning to know that writing has a purpose)

### **Personal, social and Emotional:**

#### **Emotional and Mental health- Recognising our feelings**

**School value-** Being Open-minded

Worries, solving problems, Managing feelings, Safe Adults

**Celebration-** Diwali, Christmas

As children gain confidence in their Nursery environment, adults will support them to make and maintain relationships and develop their self-maintenance and self-awareness skills. Activities will include turn taking and sharing, identifying and talking about emotions and how we can solve problems using different strategies. Children will be increasingly able to remember rules without needing an adult to remind them. They will be encouraged to solve problems with friends with the support of an adult.

### **Key events and experiences**

- Begin library sessions
- Making bread
- Bonfire/Diwali party with Reception
- Christmas celebrations

### **Parental engagement**

- Turn taking
- Story sharing session

### **Maths:**

Mathematical exploration will continue to take part within play-based experiences. Adults will model numerals 0 to 3 and work these into real-life activities such as a phone book in the home corner, a recipe on the playdough area or a game in the garden. Children will be supported to subitise one, two and three objects (without counting) and become more confident and fluent when doing this. Real-life opportunities for counting will support children to link numerals with amounts up to 5 and maybe beyond.

### **Physical Development:**

Nursery children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills. Exploring different ways to move within our outdoor area, matching their physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example: deciding whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width, how to travel down the slide or pole. Creating their own balancing and travelling games. Fine motor development will continue to have a focus and children will be supported to use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors, painting and mark making with brushes, pens and pencils, drawing with sticks and so on.

### **Expressive Art and Design:**

Creativity and imagination will be harnessed both inside and outdoors and children will be encouraged to explore different materials freely, in order to develop their own ideas about how to use them and what to make. Adults will model how to use materials in a different way, such as painting with ice, or creating sculptures with muddy clay. Children will be engaged in elaborating their imaginative play, creating more complex 'small worlds', building on a larger scale outdoors, and representing their ideas and feelings in artistic ways.

Music and songs will be used daily to support transitions and understanding of key events or concepts. Adults and children will sing together and children will begin to sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match'). Children will explore song and dance on the outdoor stage, giving them the opportunity to be loud and proud.

### **Understanding the World:**

The 'You and Me' topic lends itself to the exploration of the past and present lives of the Nursery children. They will be encouraged to talk about events in their own experiences that are important to them, and to make sense of their own life-story and family history. How have they changed since being a baby, how will we change this year? Adults will model talking about the things children have observed and encourage children to use and develop their ideas. Children will explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties, comparing and contrasting and being guided to make observations about nature and the changing seasons. They will be supported to use of their senses in hands-exploration of natural materials and the outside world, discussing the things that they like and dislike.