



Curriculum News October 2020

After a very unusual few months the children have had a wonderful start to the Autumn Term. Lots of exciting learning has taken place across the curriculum with a focus on the Prime Areas of Learning; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication & Language and Physical Development.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The children have all settled in well and are managing the drop off at the door with increasing confidence and independence. Our returning children have been excellent role models for the new children and have adapted quickly to changes in routine. They are building excellent relationships with the adults and their peers.

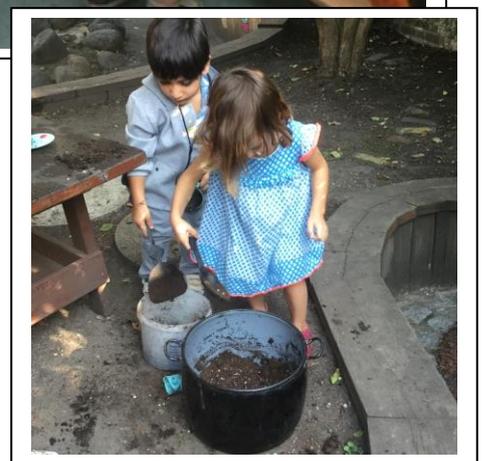
We have been focussing on sharing and turn taking and the children are developing their skills in the classroom and through Nurture Groups.

Lots of children are demonstrating good self-help skills, which as a staff team we continue to encourage in order for them to develop their independence and confidence.

We have been encouraging children to use their words to resolve conflict independently; the words actively encouraged by staff are 'Stop it, I don't like it....because....'

The children are now familiar with the routines of the day and use the visual timetable to support this.

Groups of children have been enjoying onsite Forest School sessions.



Physical Development

The children have had a big focus on handwashing and are becoming very good at knowing when they need to wash their hands and how to do it thoroughly. Lots of the children can be heard counting to 20 or singing as they wash!

The children have been developing their fine motor skills through a range of activities such as play dough and tweezers. They have also been using equipment such as scissors and pens. They have been developing their spatial awareness and gross motor skills through riding bikes, exploring the garden and obstacle courses. Children are starting to challenge themselves physically within the garden. They are beginning to understand the need for safety when tackling new challenges and are considering and managing some risks, knowing that an adult is close by if needed.

Children's toileting skills are developing. Please remember that loose clothes are advised to promote independence, for example, jogging bottoms and elasticated waist bands. Your child should wear clothes they can pull up and down by themselves. All children need spare clothes in their lockers just in case.



Communication & Language and Literacy

This half of term we have focused on using language for a purpose encouraging children to use their words in a range of situations for example during story / group / lunch times as well as one to one with their peers and adults.

There has been lots of mark making using a range of mark making implements and tactile experiences, for example, mark making in mud, salt trays, chalk and lots of paint.

Story times have had a focus on traditional tales, through this the children have been able to;

Develop care and respect for books, discuss key characters and make links between stories. The repeated story language helps the children to take on roles in their play and to talk about stories.

The children have been developing their listening and turn taking skills in a range of ways, especially exploring instruments, singing and through adult led activities.

The children have been engaging in lots of Phase 1 phonics activities and each week we focus on a different Phase 2 letter & sound.

Mathematics

We have been talking about routines and times of the day as part of our induction. We can use the visual timetable and clocks to help us understand different parts of the day. Key words used are; now, next, soon and later.

Through traditional tales we have been exploring size and capacity. Songs have supported the children's early understanding of number.

Maths Week had a focus on counting, we counted everything we could, children, bikes, conkers, leaves! We are developing our numerical order and one to one correspondence.



Understanding the World

We have been enjoying the change in seasons through the garden, playing close attention to the plants and the weather. We have been learning about the festivals Harvest and Sukkot and linking these to discussions about where our food comes from and how it gets from the field to our plates.

The children have been enjoying lots of role play based on their own experiences. The Home corner has been very popular and lots of delicious cakes and cups of tea have been made in the sandpit. Banana bread seems to be especially popular post lockdown!

Expressive Arts and Design

There has been lots of small world play with the Dolls House, dinosaurs, cars and trains. This has allowed the children to think creatively and take on different roles.

The music area has been extremely popular with lots of exploration of the instruments available. In Music Group the children have been exploring sounds and instruments.

There has been lots of singing with actions and Makaton signing which has particularly helped the children with English as an additional language as well as children with special needs. We have explored lots of different materials, substances and textures in our tactile play. The children really enjoy water and mud!

Some amazing constructions have been built using Lego, Hollow Blocks and other kits.

