



## Curriculum News October 2021

It's been a busy half term for our children, but it's been lovely to welcome all our new and returning families back inside the nursery. 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.

### Communication & Language

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 have been lots of opportunities for children to talk about their experiences and knowledge, and to learn lots of new vocabulary linked to topics we have been learning.

Children have been working hard on developing their attention and listening skills during gatherings and story times. We use visual support to help encourage 'Good sitting, good looking and good listening'



### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The children have settled well and are developing in confidence to separate upon arrival to nursery. Our returning children have adapted well to changes this year, including welcoming parents back in to nursery, although some of them have commented: "Why are there so many grown-ups here?, This isn't their nursery"

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

Children are also developing techniques for emotional self-regulation through stories and groups such as Yoga and Mindfulness.

Lots of children are demonstrating good self-help skills, which supports them to develop their independence and confidence. 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. We have also had a big focus on Oral Health, with resources & books available along with a special visit from the Dentist.

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....'

Groups of children have been enjoying onsite Forest School sessions and have taken part in pond dipping and mini beast hunts, this helps promote an understanding of why we need to show care and respect to our environment.

## Physical Development

Children have been enjoying exploring the garden and all its opportunities including climbing, balancing & running. 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 have also enjoyed obstacle courses, bikes and balls. Children are developing their fine motor skills by using a range of small tools such as pens, scissors, spades and spoons. They are also strengthening the muscles in their hands by playing with dough.

Children have enjoyed dancing and moving to music, especially Frozen, which is still a firm favourite.

Children have been taking part in Yoga, they have been encouraged to think about how it makes them feel, both physically and emotionally.

Children's self-help skills are developing, and they are encouraged to 'have a go' at getting changed or putting on their coats.



## Literacy

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

Story times have had a focus on traditional tales, which have also been linked to our focus in maths. The children have enjoyed props to help tell stories and have used lots of story sacks to help with their own self-initiated exploration of these stories and to develop language linked to stories.

The reading area has been a popular area for children to explore, they have enjoyed a range of fiction and information books. Children have been encouraged to show care for our books.

The children have been engaging in lots of Phase 1 phonics activities including developing an awareness of environmental sounds, exploring body percussion and making different voice sounds. Children have taken part in listening walks and created a new version of 'We're going on a Bear Hunt', where they came up with new voice sounds for areas around the garden, for example "Uh oh grass! Crunch, crunch, crunch crunch" and "Uh oh decking, stomp, stomp, stomp stomp"

## Mathematics

We have focused on the number 5 this half term, with lots of opportunities to count and write these numbers.

The children have enjoyed exploring new resources in the maths area, such as Numicon which helps teach subitising and number bonds.

Through traditional tales we have been exploring size and capacity. Songs such as 'Monkeys jumping on a bed' have supported the children's early understanding of number.

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.

Children have been using positional language linked to their learning about maps.



## Understanding the World

We have been enjoying the garden and exploring all it has to offer. We have been fortunate enough to welcome a gardener to nursery, who has been teaching us all about different types of plants and flowers. The children have worked with the gardener to plant seeds and dig the vegetable patch. They have really enjoyed it.

We have been learning about various festivals including Harvest and Sukkot and linking this learning to thinking about where our food comes from. Children have had real fruits and vegetables to explore using their senses.

We have begun to explore maps this half term, linked to the topic of local Habitats, the children have had the opportunity to create and look at maps of the garden.



## Expressive Arts and Design

There has been lots of lovely role play and small world play this half term, with the children taking on different roles including: minibeasts, animals and acting out traditional tales. The children have also enjoyed role playing their real-life experiences in the home corner, harbour house and mud kitchen.

The music area has been extremely popular with lots of exploration of the instruments available, and in Music Group the children have been exploring sounds and instruments and developing their 'listening ears'.

There has been lots of singing in gatherings and story times, with actions and Makaton signing which has particularly helped the children with English as an additional language as well as children with special needs.

There have been lots of opportunities to build with various construction kits, including Hollow blocks, unit blocks and Duplo.

Children have enjoyed exploring a range of tactile resources including mud, water, dough and cornflour, they have enjoyed talking about how it feels, "Eugh, this is sticky"

