



Curriculum News - Autumn One - October 2024

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.

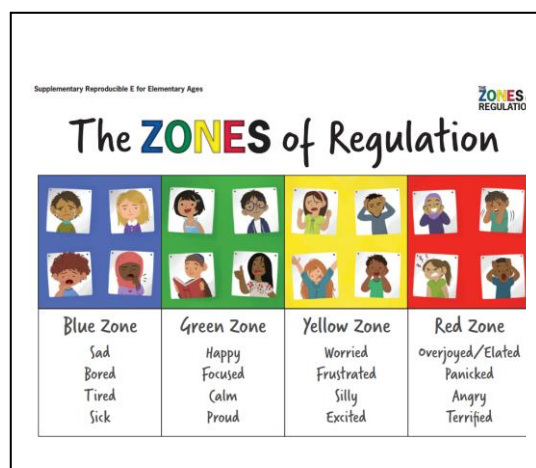
Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The children are continuing to settle in well and are managing their arrival at nursery with increasing confidence and independence. Our returning children have helped support our new children to settle and adapt to the nursery routine.

We have been focussing on the children's self-help and self-care skills and as a staff team continue to encourage the children's independence and confidence.

The children are beginning to form friendships with each other, learning how to communicate and negotiate during their play.

We have introduced and reminded the children about the Zones of Regulation, which helps the children to self-regulate, by managing their sensory and emotional needs.



Communication & Language

This half term, we have been concentrating on language linked to the daily routine, such as gathering, and story time. We have also taught the children simple Makaton language such as toilet, home and help.

The children have been developing their listening, attention and turn taking skills in a range of ways, through engaging in Listening Time, singing rhymes and listening to stories.

We have explored subject specific language linked to the topics we have been learning about, such as harvest and farms, spooky stories, all about me and creative arts.

Physical Development

The children have been exploring the garden and developing their gross motor skills and spatial awareness through a range of activities such as balancing, climbing over, under and through obstacle courses.

They have also been practising their fine motor skills by using mark-making tools, such as pens, pencils, paintbrushes and chalk, to write on paper or create artistic pieces. Some children have also engaged in threading and weaving activities.

The 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 **named** spare clothes in their lockers just in case.



Literacy

Since the beginning of term, we have been reading Traditional Tales, such as the Three Little Pigs, the Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood. We have also read information texts about harvest, farms, oral health and self-care.

To celebrate Black History Month, the children have also been reading Anansi stories from West Africa.

For children who are due to go to Reception in September 2025, we teach a letter sound a week. The children have responded well to this and enjoy having a go at mark making or writing the letter of the week. We have taught the following letters so far; s, a, t, p, i, n and d.

To encourage a love of reading, all children can take home a book, twice in one term. Each key group will be given the same book. We hope they have enjoyed spending time sharing their books with you. Please return your reading book, yellow reading record and book bag to receive another.

Mathematics

We have been talking about routines and times of the day as part of our induction. We have used our theme of traditional tales to investigate size, weight and the number three.

In recent weeks, we have focussed on looking at the properties of 2D shapes. We have also explored ABAB patterns, encouraging the children to continue a pattern and create their own.

The children have also had lots of opportunity to count a variety of objects in a range of contexts and identify numerals 0 to 5.



Understanding the World

The garden has helped us experience the change in seasons. The leaves have changed colour and started to fall. The children have enjoyed collecting and comparing leaves and identifying which tree their leaf comes from.

We have been learning about the festival of Harvest, linking our discussions to how food is grown and where it comes from.

The children enjoyed exploring the role play farm shop and butchers we set up in the classroom.

Expressive Arts and Design

As part of Creative Arts Fortnight and Black History Month learning, the children have been learning about some of the customs of Ghana and other countries in West Africa. We have printed Adinkra symbols onto cloth and made necklaces and bracelets using dyed pasta. The children also produced lovely artwork, seen in the picture below, inspired by the work of Lois Mailou Jones.

Through their weekly music sessions, the children have been exploring instruments and sound. They have especially liked banging drums, tapping claves and exploring the different sounds on a xylophone.

We set up a stage with scarves for the children to express themselves creatively.

