

Please Remember....

- To provide a coat for your child to wear, even when the weather looks good!
- PE (Energy club) will usually be on a Thursday afternoon, however, Reception children should have a PE kit available all week (we will send these home for washing)
- Nursery children to have a change of clothes, which should be kept on their peg.
- In the nursery, you can visit the library on Friday morning with your child and choose a book; Reception children visit the library on a Monday afternoon with their class.
- Nursery sessions begin at 8:45am and end at 11:45am; the Reception day begins at 8:55am and ends at 3:10pm

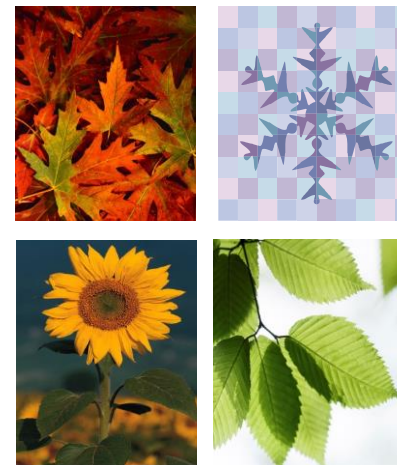
Learning Journeys...

From September 2014, information will be recorded on a specially designed online format called 'Tapestry'. Observations can be viewed by parents and added to, by parents (using a specific password just for their own child's information). We will continue to hold Learning Journey open sessions every term in the Nursery and Reception class - inviting parents and carers to come and look through the learning journeys (using class laptops) and to discuss children's progress.

Things to do at home....

Keep talking! Talking with your child, showing an interest in what they are doing is one of the most beneficial activities you can do! Take some time to switch off the TV and your phone, have a chat, read a story, and count how many fish-fingers there are for tea!

Foundation Stage Yearly Overview 2014-2015



Learning and Development in the Foundation Stage

Play is of vital importance to the development of a child's learning and understanding. Teaching and learning in the Early Years takes note of individual children's interests, needs and abilities and builds upon these, enabling each child to learn through spontaneous and planned, worthwhile play. Themes and topics are not always explicit and obvious, due to the nature of following our current children's interests!

Play can be *adult supported* and *child-initiated* and underpins development and progress across all areas of learning: the Foundation Stage guidance describes children's learning in terms of three '**prime**' areas and four '**specific**' areas...

The Three 'Prime' Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - This area is divided into '**Self-confidence and self-awareness**', '**Managing feelings and behaviour**' and '**Making relationships**'. Children learn to get along with each other, take turns, show kindness, and control their own behaviour, recognising people's differing ideas, needs and feelings. Adults model appropriate speech to help children communicate effectively with one another.

Communication and Language - This area is divided into '**Listening and attention**', '**Understanding**' and '**Speaking**'. Children develop attentive listening skills in a range of situations, they learn to follow instructions carefully and answer 'how' and 'why' questions and they learn to express themselves effectively. We introduce new vocabulary according to our topic/theme (based on children's current interests) and we support language learning with Makaton signs.

Physical Development - This area is divided into '**Moving and Handling**' and '**Health and self-care**'. Children learn to be confident and safe in their movement and to explore different ways of moving; they learn about the effects of activity on their bodies and how to keep healthy and safe. Every week Hedgehog Class take part in 'Energy Club' activities, addressing this learning. Our outdoor spaces provide plentiful opportunities to safely develop physical skills such as climbing, running, balancing and riding scooters. On a smaller scale children develop fine motor skills through a variety of activities enabling them, eventually, to better control simple tools such as pencils, pens, brushes and scissors.

The Four 'Specific' Areas

Literacy - This area is divided into '**Reading**' and '**Writing**'. Children develop a love of stories and other books and they become more aware of print in their environment. They begin to recognise and write their names and develop confidence in early mark-making. Through fun, practical activities children learn to hear sounds in words, supporting both reading and writing later on... In their reception year, they start the 'Read, Write Inc. Programme' (Mon - Thu), leading to success in reading and writing simple sentences. Each half term in The Foundation Stage, specific stories are selected for children to rehearse and re-tell, improving story telling language and techniques.

Mathematics - This area is divided into '**Numbers**' and '**Shape, space and measures**'. Children are given practical and 'real life' opportunities to learn about: accurate counting of small sets; understanding of language such as 'more' and 'fewer'; and recognition of numbers. Numicon maths resources (supported by the 'Abacus' maths programme in Reception) help to develop children's understanding of our number system. Children are also introduced to language and concepts associated with shape, size and measures.

Understanding the World - This area is divided into '**People and Communities**', '**The world**' and '**Technology**'. Children have opportunities to investigate and explore their everyday surroundings and learn about their world. They are encouraged to share their *own* experiences and learn that we all have similarities and differences (including coverage of some religious beliefs). Children have access to simple switch toys, as well as being able to use the class computer and school laptops.

Expressive Arts and Design - This area is divided into '**Exploring and using media and materials**' and '**Being imaginative**'. Children are given opportunities to express their ideas and feelings through a variety of media, including 'art', music, dance and imaginative play. At the art area, they are encouraged to work independently, following some adult-led modelling of techniques and ideas.