

Curriculum Newsletter

Foundation Class – Autumn 2021



Dear Parents,

We are delighted with the way that the children have settled so smoothly into school. Please continue to encourage your child to come into the classroom by themselves and manage their morning routine jobs. Putting a ribbon on your child's book bag will also help them to find their bags in amongst the 30 other purple bags!

This letter aims to give an outline of the activities and experiences we plan to offer the children in the foundations class this term. Activities are based around the seven areas of learning as laid out in the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. A note telling you of the topic for the second half of term will go out at the end of October.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, as part of helping the children to settle into the Foundation Class, we will be encouraging them, through the Golden Rule stories and puppets, to work together, look after their toys and to be kind and gentle with each other. During our time in the continuous provision we will be playing alongside the children and supporting them to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably.

You can support your child by: encouraging your child's independence through small responsibilities, such as tidying away some of their toys. Encourage turn taking and sharing in their play. Comment on and recognise your child's achievements and successes. Praise them for trying hard.

Communication and Language

We will be encouraging the children to listen attentively in a range of situations and to respond to instructions. Children will be encouraged to talk in a small group and then in front of the whole class sharing their ideas and experiences. Please see the attached sheet explaining how our 'smart talking' sessions work.

You can support your child by: talking with your child at every opportunity, modelling and extending appropriate vocabulary. When sharing a book encourage your child to predict possible endings to stories and events or pick their favourite part of the story giving reasons why.

Physical Development

This half term the children will learn to use space safely, travel with increasing control and co-ordination. They will also use a range of small games equipment safely and play aiming games. Children will have daily access to a range of physical activities to develop gross and fine motor skills in their continuous provision time. They will participate in a daily 'Funky Fingers' dough gym session to strengthen the muscles in their fingers and help to develop a good pencil grip.

You can help your child by: helping them to learn the phrase (to aid memory) and practise writing the letters from their Read, Write Inc phonic sheets. Offer any of the following activities to help them develop their motor skills: Paint brush and water pot to write on the patio or walls. Write on a steamed-up window or mirror. Write in the sand tray with their magic finger. Put out a large sheet of paper and let them make marks.

Literacy

The children will work daily to read and write letters from their phonic programme. Please see individual letters sent home giving ways to support your child at home with their early reading skills. The children will be introduced to stories, poems and information text. There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to re-tell stories through role-play.

You can support your child by: continuing to share stories and poems exposing them to a wide variety of language. Encourage them to listen for words that rhyme and then to make up their own silly rhymes! Please make time to support them practising their letter sounds (see information sheet in their book bags).

Mathematics

This term the children will undertake lots of counting through songs, games and play activities. They will learn how numbers grow. They will gain understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number. Children will count their 'golden points' and work out how many more they need to make ten. In addition, we will be developing children's awareness of shape, space and pattern through practical activities. We will be encouraging a 'have a go' attitude, sharing what they notice and not being afraid to make mistakes. We will send home a sheet showing the correct way to form their numbers and the rhyme to support them.

You can support your child by: counting suitable objects in and around the home, making sure they are touching and counting carefully. Spot different numbers in the environment. Help your child to be a shape detective and encourage them to look for different shapes when you are out and about. Look for patterns in the home and talk about the different patterns they can see.

Understanding the World

During the first few weeks of term the children will meet the adults in school and learn about the different jobs that they do. We will then look at the work that people do outside of the school environment to help us. The children will be encouraged to ask and answer questions. The children will then learn about 'Harvest' and how Christians celebrate harvest as a way of thanking their creator. Children will also begin to learn about foods harvested in other countries. Children will also begin to learn why the word 'God' is special to Christians. We talk openly that not all people are Christians and that it is people's choice to make as they grow up and begin to decide for themselves, but it is good to know about other religions and beliefs.

You can support your child by: talking about what fruit and vegetables you see in the environment, including the local shop/farmers' market. Help them to spot different uniforms and jobs that people do in our local area.

Expressive arts and design

Children will have lots of opportunities to paint and draw using a range of equipment. They will learn how to use thick and thin paint brushes. They will begin to learn the different primary colours and how these can be made into different shades. Children will be fully involved in choosing and planning for their role play area. Children will listen to music, learn new songs and learn how to make different sounds with the musical instruments.

You can support your child by: encouraging them to sing some of the new songs they have learned in school. Value the creations they bring home from school and discuss why and how they made their picture or model.

Children will use technology to support and enhance their learning across all areas of the curriculum. Please remember you are always welcome to come and discuss any aspect of your child's development.

We also hope you are enjoying seeing photos of your child's learning on Tapestry, if you are having any difficulty with viewing photos or uploading 'wow' moments please come and speak with us we are always happy to help.

Best wishes,

Mrs Riggs & Miss Hardy.