

Foundation Stage Curriculum News

Spring 2017

Welcome back. This newsletter is to let you know a little about what your child will be learning during the next term.

Our topic for this term is **All About Me.**

The topic has been split up into different themes which are covered over 1 or 2 weeks. The themes are: bits and pieces; handy week, Chinese New Year, listening week, looking week, babies, growing up and faces & feelings, Mother's Day Easter & Spring.

The topic themes are all linked to the areas of learning and development which form the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and are summarised below.

Prime areas of Learning and Development:

Personal Social and Emotional Development: during the term your child will have the opportunity to discuss and learn about a variety of things linked to their work on themselves and other people e.g. personal hygiene, sharing and taking turns, talking about personal experiences and feelings when sharing stories, and visits linked to families and relationships. PSED sessions will focus on the topics 'Going for Goals' and 'It's Good to be Me' learning to recognise their own strengths and how to identify and improve areas for development.

As we approach Easter, we will be looking at what this time of year means to Christians and some of the traditions associated with Easter. We shall also spend some time looking at special times of year such as Mother's Day and New Year traditions. This will help them begin to be aware of and learn to respect their own culture, beliefs and way of life, as well as those of other people. RRSA work will be linked with these topics and also with our RE theme this term which looks at the Bible as a special book and stories connected with water. We will be considering the right of every child to clean water and looking at the effects of flooding and drought on communities.

During general school and classroom activities children will learn to become more independent and develop further their relationships with adults and other children. We hope that they continue to be excited and motivated about their learning and as a result, continue to be confident and comfortable at school.

Physical Development: in this area, children are encouraged to use a range of small and large equipment with increasing control, confidence and imagination both inside and outside. During this topic children will be developing large motor skills in PE activities based around movement and dance, through the use of small apparatus to improve basic control, and through the Write Dance movement sessions and during outdoor play. Through these activities they will also begin to recognise the changes in their bodies when they exercise and learn that exercise is important for keeping healthy.

Their small motor skills will be developed through many classroom activities which will include, using construction, sand and water, cutting and sticking activities and modelling with different materials.

Communication and Language: this area covers aspects of Listening & Attention; Understanding and Speaking. We will address learning for the development of speaking & listening skills by providing regular opportunities for:

- listening to, sharing and discussing a variety of stories, poems, rhymes and information books about different kinds people and people who do different jobs in the community or help out in different situations. This will give opportunities for discussing characters, events and actions and relating things in the stories to their own experiences
- discussing and making observations about different situations and roles in the community. Being able to tell about people that they know, what they look like, their jobs and/or roles in the community and maybe talk about a job that they would like to do one day. The children can then participate in a weekly review of learning and then plan together for the following week. Beginning to generate appropriate questions for learning and beginning to suggest/find ways to answer these questions
- collaboration when organising and planning both self - initiated and directed work
- using drama techniques, opportunities for role play and work with puppets to develop understanding and speaking skills through story building; story retelling and creating imaginary dialogue
- making simple observations and discussing and describing similarities and differences that they observe when comparing themselves with others
- listening to each other and asking and answering questions appropriately when talking about different people and the jobs they do
- giving or following instructions accurately in order to use a programmable toy
- talking to adults and peers about what they have done, how they have done it and things that they might change or improve
- having experience of specific subject and /or topic related vocabulary so exploring and learning new words to widen vocabulary.

Specific areas of Learning and Development:

Literacy: whilst following our topic themes, the children will be continuing to develop their reading and writing skills. They will have opportunities to listen to and join in with a variety of texts including stories, poems, rhymes, and instructions and

information text. Through activities linked to these stories, rhymes and themes, they will be consolidating their knowledge of letters, sounds and words to use what they know to read more complex words and sentences. They will be attempting writing for different purposes using different forms of writing e.g. prescriptions, patient records, lists, cards, captions, signs and labels. Via these activities, they will be encouraged to rehearse their letter formation skills using a correct pencil grip and showing increasing control over the size and shape of letters in their writing. We will continue to follow a daily programme called Letters and Sounds to teach blending and segmenting of sounds in words for reading and spelling. We use 'Action Words', a programme designed to help your child read and spell words from memory and focused handwriting sessions to train correct movement and direction leading towards increased independence in correct letter formation.

Mathematics: focused teaching in this area will help your child to develop their understanding of number to 20 and beyond (number recognition & counting), calculation (adding & taking away), problem solving, recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes and beginning to measure length, capacity, weight and time. They will also develop these areas through the topic 'All About Me' by taking part in activities such as: drawing round feet, comparing size, & using as a measure.

Reading the 'Funny Bones' story - comparing & ordering by size. Playing the Parts of body game - number recognition & simple counting. Finger & counting rhymes; body parts counting (ones & twos). Hand prints, use to compare size - use positional language when making hand tree. Measuring length in hand spans - compare with giants hands. Playing estimation game 'Handy'. Playing number lotto & Bingo using listening skills - also counting by listening 'tin game'. Musical counting games - 1 more/less. Making & reading pictograms & bar charts - eye colour; height. Faces - counting book (make our own). Make spectacles of different sizes & shapes for the optician's area. Looking at simple symmetry using faces.

Activities will continue to be mostly in the form of games and practical tasks so that your child will be learning whilst also having fun.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World: activities to develop understanding in this area will include learning about parts of the body - inside & out; activities linked to using senses linked to different body parts; making close observations of themselves and others, noticing & describing similarities and differences; following the development of a human baby & comparing the needs of a baby with their own needs; identifying changes over time in themselves & others, thus developing a sense of their own personal history. We will also be learning about Easter traditions and customs and finding out about China - traditions, festivals, customs & beliefs, clothes, foods etc. We will be doing some work on our Global learning project looking at ways in which the weather impacts on different communities. We will be working with computers, digital cameras, I pads and programmable toys thus giving your child the opportunity to explore and learn about uses of technology in everyday situations.

Creative development: throughout the topic the children will experience working with a variety of different materials to paint and draw, make models with junk, make puppets and use construction toys, use dough and other malleable materials to participate in activities such as - portraits of themselves and others; skeleton making; hand & feet patterns; cards and toys for babies; Chinese new year activities - dragons, lion costumes; lion & dragon dances/movements. Masks. Listen to & recreate Chinese music, sing songs with Chinese theme. They will also have frequent opportunities to communicate ideas and express themselves through role-play (hospital & opticians), movement, singing and playing musical instruments. In addition to this, they will continue to enjoy weekly music lessons with specialist teacher Mrs Davison.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY FOOD/ANIMAL ALLERGIES COULD YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW?

If you would like to follow some of these areas up at home here are a few ideas:

- Talk about bodies. Name body parts such as head, arms, neck, stomach, chest, legs, fingers, toes, wrist, elbow, ankle, shoulders, knee, foot, ears, eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth.
- Talk about how we keep our bodies healthy. (Sleep, food, exercise, hygiene)
- Go to the local library and look for non-fiction books about bodies and body parts.
- Encourage your child to practice putting their own clothes on and taking them off.
- Look at family photographs. Talk about eye and hair colours and family likenesses.
- Find pictures of themselves and their parents when they were babies and discuss what was happening in the pictures.
- Draw around hands and feet and compare the size of these to other members of their family. Demonstrate how to order hands and feet by size.
- Encourage children to bring to school a photograph of themselves when they were a baby. (This will be used to help make a book). Make a family album. Encourage your child to take photographs, stick them into a book and write labels.
- Sort food after going shopping into groups of healthy and 'treat' food.
- Talk about the children's senses, and encourage your children to explore their senses. Encourage them to describe what they can see, hear, smell, feel and taste.

Make a paper plate face puppet. Encourage them to use scissors independently to cut up collage material to represent the features on their face

Our planning overview is available on the school website and our weekly planning is put on the notice board in the quiet room. This outlines specific activities and links them to learning objectives in much more detail. You are welcome to look at this so that you will be able to see exactly what your child will be learning in a given week. You are also encouraged to see your child's electronic portfolio and record of development booklet. This will be sent home at least once a term but you may ask to see it at any other time.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, or would like more information about the curriculum and how it supports your child's development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kirkness, Mrs Whitecross, Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Donaldson (Reception Team)