

Spring Term 1 in Nursery

What will we be learning and how can you help at home?

This term we welcome our January starters to Nursery.

Now that the children who started in September are settled well and are used to the routines and rules of Nursery, we are confident they will support our new starters and help them settle quickly.

This term our topic is Winter, we will cover a range of good quality texts to explore the season - Winter.

We will read:

Squirrel's Snowman, with a focus on weather and comparing hot and cold.

The Gruffalo's Child, focusing on colour mixing and winterscapes

The Snow Thief, focusing on melting and freezing, snowflakes and the season Winter

And Tango Makes Three/Cuddly Dudley, focusing on families and homelife, for animals and our own families

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, focusing on pets and making our own version of the story.

Key Vocabulary

Winter, Cold, Freeze, Ice, Icicle,
Snow, Snowflake, Pattern, Frost



Listening skills

- We will listen to stories
- We will talk about the books that we have read
- We will listen to our names in the register
- We will learn to stop when we are asked to.
- We will begin to learn how to listen to our friends when they are talking
- We will listen to an instruction, sometimes with two parts, and do as we are asked.
- If we hear our name we will know to stop and look at who is talking to us.

How can I help at home?

- Read stories with your child as often as possible. Talk to them about what is happening, how the characters feel, what they think might happen next.
- If you ask your child to do something make sure that they stop and you have your attention before you ask them to do what they need to do
- Engage in conversation at meal times, encouraging them to wait and listen to others as they talk - one idea you may choose is one thing you remember you did today.

Key Vocabulary and questions

What happens next?

Tell me about...

What do you enjoy?



Being active and developing fine motor skills

- We will be developing core strength through climbing, balancing, jumping, running, hopping and many more activities
- We will be exploring patterns and remembering sequences of movements related to music
- We will practice using one handed tools, e.g. snipping paper, for some children this may include practicing to write their name.
- We will learn how to use scissors
- We will have the opportunity to push cars around the vehicle area
- We will learn how to ride the trikes
- We will learn how to put our coats on and zip them up and to put on our own shoes too

How can I help at home?

- Help your child learn how to put on their coats and shoes all by themselves, using the coat flip movement!
- Encourage your child to eat by themselves, this includes peeling their own fruit. In school we start them off with their oranges but they can all do it themselves. All of this really helps independence.
- Spend time outdoors as much as you can. Make use of the West Common, The Arboretum or local parks to explore. Allow children to take risks and explore their limits.
- Explore chalk, squeeze bottles, lids, pegs on a clothes line, playdough



Fine motor skills

Developing their fine motor skills is a huge part of the children's physical development at this age. To develop strength in their fingers and hands, they must first have a good core strength, and then dexterity in their shoulder, elbow and wrist before moving to their hands.

Here are some ideas of things you can do at home to support this.

- Water painting outside with a bucket of water and a paint brush.
- Drawing, painting, colouring on a vertical surface.
- Playing with playdough to pinch, roll, twist, prod and manipulate the playdough.
- Use pegs, children's tweezers, toy pipettes to play with objects and water.
- Build with wooden blocks, Duplo, Lego, K'nex. Play jigsaws, magnetic fishing games or 'tap a shape' type games to name but a few.
- Please share your fun on Tapestry!



Personal and Social Skills

- We will learn how to wash our hands when we have used the toilet and before we eat our food
- We will learn how to find our own snack and water bottle
- We will learn how to line up when we go for our lunch
- We will know how to feed ourselves when we eat our lunch or snack
- We will learn how to use the toilet independently
- We will learn how to wait our turn if somebody has something that we would like to play with.
- We will learn how to ask a grown up for help if we are finding something tricky.
- We will begin to feel a sense of community and develop a sense of responsibility with the toys in our classroom, tidying up when we are asked

How can I help at home?

- Encourage your child to put on their own coat and shoes before coming to school.
- Encourage your child to wait if someone is playing with something they would like.
- Play simple games at home that encourage taking turns.
- Encourage using the toilet independently, including wiping when they have finished
- Encourage your child to ask 'help me please' if they are finding something tricky.

Tuning into sounds - for some of our children

- We will be starting to listen to the sounds we can hear at the beginning of words.
- We will be talking about the sound (not the letter name) that our name begins with, for example Rupert begins with rrrrrrrr not 'Ar' and Maggie begins with mmmmmm not 'Em'.
- We will find objects around the classroom beginning with the sounds ssss, a, t, p.

What can I do to help at home?

- Talk about the sound that is at the beginning of the names of the members of your family.
- Go on a hunt around the house to find things that begin with a ssss.
 - If your child is ready, introduce the game I Spy.

Please note we do not introduce what the letters look like in Nursery, we are listening to the sounds.



For other children

We will continue to sing songs, learn nursery rhymes, read stories and listen to sounds in our environment.

What can I do to help at home?

- Sing Nursery Rhymes together - doing this together when you are dressing your child or when they are in the bath is a great way to get them to engage without too many other distractions

Maths

- We will learn a range of counting songs and rhymes, we will learn what four looks like as an amount to support the children in accessing each area in the room as there are only 4 children allowed in each area at once within the classroom (e.g. 4 children at the water tray)
- We will learn how to subitise up to 4 objects (this is where you look at an amount and know there are e.g. 3 just by looking.) simple board games and dice are great for this
- We will be accurately counting up to 5
- We will be learning the name of some common 2D shapes..

How can I help at home?

- Sing number songs with your child
- Count out utensils when laying the table for dinner
- Talk about the importance of putting things that you are counting in a line, and touching each one to make them easier to count.
- Count the number of shoes by the door
- Play simple board games with a dice to support subitizing the dice pattern and tracking along a board.



A GENTLE REMINDER

Now that we have more children starting in Nursery we have less space in our cloakroom. The following items are the only items needed by your child:

- Coat everyday (hat and gloves etc when it is cold)
- Waterproof suit to keep on their peg
- Wellies to keep in school
- A drawer string bag only, for a spare set of clothes
- Water bottle
- Lunch box

They do not need:

- A rucksack for their water bottle and lunch box

As lovely as large rucksacks are they take up limited room and with everything they need in school they are not needed. Thank you for your understanding

Over the last few weeks we have noticed toys and trinkets coming in from home, whilst these may just be a McDonalds toy or such like, when they go missing or are swapped with someone it can be hard to return them to their rightful owner. No toys in school no matter how small - thank you.

For those children who are still potty training we recommend joggers over leggings and tighter school trousers as they are easy to pull up and down, helping your child to be more independent