

Welcome back to the children who are returning to Rainbow Class and an especially warm welcome to all the new children, parents and carers who are joining us this term. We hope that settling in goes smoothly for all children and they quickly begin to enjoy the activities available to them. This is always a very busy term for all, particularly in the Nursery as many children are experiencing not only their first taste of school but also often their first time away from parents, relatives and carers.

In the Nursery we follow an Early Years Curriculum, building on the children's previous experiences and interests to extend their learning and to provide new opportunities. We observe the children in their self-chosen play as well as during adult guided activities. This information surrounding the children's achievements and needs, is shared at our team meetings, which we use to plan for their future learning.

During this term we will be looking at 'Ourselves' as a theme to develop children's all round learning. During the second half of the term we will be enjoying the various festivals and celebrations as they arise and taking pleasure in the seasonal change of weather. We will explore aspects of ourselves through the learning areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage that are set out below.

Personal, Social and Emotional

We will focus on settling in our new children and possibly our existing children too, providing them with a safe, secure and stimulating environment to play in. The members of the Nursery team will support children in separating from their



parents/carers to facilitate a smooth settling in period. All with the help of our existing children who enjoy looking after the new children and take pride in showing them around. We will support the children in following the daily routines that will encourage them to become independent and self-managing. The Nursery is organised in a way that allows the children to access the resources and equipment by themselves to extend their interests and to become independent learners.

We place a strong emphasis on mutual respect, care and kindness towards each other in the school and endeavour through ongoing discussion and activities to foster these qualities in the children.



Communication, Language and Literacy

The children will become familiar with and enjoy a range of stories and authors from our core and big book selection. The stories we will focus on are strongly linked to our theme which relate to the children's past and present experiences, their families, home, friends and familiar situations. Stories and rhymes with repetitive text and vibrant pictures, which the children can identify with, will encourage them to develop and build on their interest in books. Using 3D and 2D props and acting out stories support and extend their knowledge and understanding of stories.

The children will have the opportunity to explore and develop their pre-writing skills during self-chosen and adult led activities. They will be encouraged and supported in recognising and writing their names by using their name cards to label their work and self-register at the beginning of the session. The children will be able to make their own individual books about themselves and contribute to collaborative big books. This is always a favourite activity amongst the children as the adults scribe what they say about their mark making and drawings.

The children will continue the process of learning to read by taking part in daily phonic sessions and related activities to learn the letter sounds of the alphabet. We will give you more information and guidance on how you can help your child at home within this term.

Physical Development

The children will take part in PE (Physical Education) Sessions in the hall to develop spatial awareness and confidence through movement. Access to our outside area all day provides opportunities to develop gross motor skills such as running, balancing, riding bikes/scooters, using sports equipment etc. The children's fine motor skills will be developed by taking part in threading, manipulating malleable materials, such as playdough and mark making activities. In the art and crafts workshop areas the children will develop their cutting and DT skills.



Self-care and hygiene is crucial to staying well and healthy and becoming independent in looking after ourselves. At this time we are placing a stronger emphasis on hand washing and hygiene to deter seasonal illnesses.

Mathematical Development



The children will develop mathematical language, concepts and number skills through their own independent play and adult led activities. We will continue to look at, use number lines to encourage the children to recite numbers, count, recognise and place in order numbers up to ten and beyond. During story and circle times we will sing familiar number songs and learn new ones to support counting, taking away and adding. Block play is an important activity in learning about shape, space, weight and measure, therefore many of the learning outcomes can be learnt in the construction areas, which are always busy.

Understanding the World



This is a broad area of learning that includes Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Science, Geography and History. The children will be able to access computer programs relevant to our theme, developing their IT skills and computer language. Additionally, the children will have the opportunity to use the audio equipment for listening to stories and songs and programmable toys.

By looking at 'Ourselves' the children will become more aware of their own bodies, their body parts, where they're positioned and their uses. During the term we will also be exploring our senses through a variety of investigations and activities that will further develop the children's awareness of their own bodies and functions. Healthy eating and what our bodies need to grow and stay healthy will be a focus during snack and lunch times and cooking sessions.

Sand and water play, making play dough and cooking are some of the activities the children will be involved in which will develop their scientific knowledge as well as being great fun.

Linking history to our theme, we will spend time looking at ourselves as babies and how we have changed. Please could you bring a photograph of your child as a baby for this project so that the children will be able to compare pictures of 'then and now' and think about how they may change as they grow older.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creative development covers a wide variety of activities in the nursery such as artwork, drama/role playing and music. All the children will have the opportunity to explore different painting techniques, cutting and sticking and drawing through daily activities. By observing themselves the children will draw and paint self-portraits forming part of a display. The children will be inspired to play imaginatively in role play areas with relevant resources to enhance this type of valuable play.



PATCH

Children will continue to take story books home for parents, brothers/sisters or other family members to read to them. As your child starts to feel confident they may want to be the storyteller. What is important here is the sequence and book language your child uses, attention they pay to print and the clues that they pick out from the pictures. Do not insist on accurate "reading" - enjoyment and confidence are what we are trying to build. Pointing out letters from your child's name and similar word patterns are a good way of drawing your child's interest to writing on a page. Read with your child when they are comfortable and relaxed - for instance at bedtime. It should be a time of enjoyment, not pressure. Two books will be sent home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The plastic wallet that your child will bring their books home in are only temporary, until you buy a school PATCH bag from school. The office staff can tell you how to access the online payment system, SchoolMoney, which will enable you to pay for the bags, t-shirts and sweatshirts, (all carry the Grafton logo). Please write your child's name on their bag, coat and jumper/sweatshirt with fabric marker so we, and your child can identify clothing. It also helps them to recognise their name.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Parents of new children will have the opportunity to discuss how they're settling in with me during the second half of this term. I will be available to anyone who has any concerns or questions regarding aspects of their child's welfare or education in the meantime. We look forward to working with you and your child over the coming term.

Jeanette and the Nursery Team.