

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

Throughout the Early Years, we will be continuing to use the Zones of Regulation to help children to recognise their emotions and teach them strategies to manage their feelings. We will be supporting those children who have joined the Pre-School this term to build secure relationships with the adults and to develop friendships with their peers, focusing on sharing and taking turns.

Communication and Language

Communication and language continue to underpin everything we do in the Early Years. This year in Pre-School we have introduced Trisha Lee's 'Helicopter Stories' - a simple approach where all children have the opportunity to tell a story to a practitioner who will write it down exactly how the children told it. These stories are then acted out by the children on the class stage. As well as being tremendous fun, Helicopter Stories value children's creativity and imaginative play, whilst supporting language development, storytelling and emergent literacy. In Reception we have introduced Greg Botrill's 'Drawing Club'. A daily story-based session, which encourages storytelling and the development of writing. This also expands the children's language by introducing new vocabulary.

Mathematics:

Throughout the Early Years the children will have daily opportunities to explore mathematically. The children will be exploring numbers and learning the value of small numbers. They will continue to have lots of opportunities to develop accurate 1:1 counting skills, through teacher guided sessions, and following these skills through into continuous provision. The Reception children will be continuing to develop their knowledge of the value of numbers by subitising.

Pre-School & Reception

This half term our topic is:



Expressive Arts and Design:

Linking in with our Traditional Tales topic we will be creating representations of the characters in the stories we read, using a range of media. The children will have the opportunity to develop their acting skills, taking on different character roles to rein act the stories we read. We will be learning songs and nursery rhymes linked to these traditional tales and using their voices and musical instruments to recreate the sounds made by different characters.

Understanding the World:

We will start the term learning about the season of Winter and locating where the Polar regions are on our planet. The children will make links between our seasonal winter weather and the weather in the Polar regions. The theme of Traditional Tales provides us with lots of opportunities to expose the children to the skills and processes involved in cooking. The children will be following a simple recipe, measuring and mixing ingredients and learning about the origin of different ingredients and foods. This term we will also be celebrating Chinese New Year, World Book Day and Mothering Sunday.

Physical Development:

We will be continuing to encourage independence at an age appropriate level throughout the Early Years, this includes dressing, toileting and using cutlery effectively. We will provide daily opportunities for all children to continue to develop and strengthen both their gross and fine motor skills. Reception children will be focusing on developing a correct pencil grip in order to form letters correctly. In Pre-School we will be teaching the Early Writing shapes using a range of different mark making tools and media. Reception children will continue to attend twice weekly PE sessions led by the S4A sports coaches.

Literacy:

This half term we will be celebrating the theme of traditional tales. This is a great opportunity to immerse the children in the wonderful world of storytelling. It will provide great opportunities for the Reception children to develop their story language and vocabulary, and to explore how stories are structured. In the Pre-School we will be focusing on learning the repeated refrains and taking on character roles. The Reception children will continue to attend daily Read, Write Inc phonics lessons and in the second half of the term we will start to teach the older Pre-School children, the set 1 single letter sounds, as well as introducing Fred Talk through Fred Games.

Here are the key books we will be reading this term:

