



Curriculum Newsletter

Teacher: Miss Mayhew

Nursery Spring 2024
EYP: Mrs Haynes

GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Where Learning Comes Alive"

In the Foundation Stage at George Street, we aim to create an engaging, broad and fulfilling curriculum which follows the children's interests and builds on prior knowledge and understanding. Our planning is led by the children's interests, development and needs, including any relevant celebrations and changes in the seasons.

Communication and Language

We read stories as a whole group every day in both sessions. We revisit our core books to encourage the children to learn them and be able to retell the stories independently. We will be focusing on books about 'animals' to support our topic. We also look at vocabulary rich literature outside of our core books to extend and deepen our vocabulary.

We have introduced props which the children can use to retell familiar stories. Around the classroom, storytelling provocations are set up for the children to practice their storytelling skills.

We encourage lots of talk throughout the day, using careful questioning to develop the children's understanding of 'how' and 'why' questions. We encourage the children to participate in discussion throughout the day. As our first topic this term will be 'animals', we hope that the children will come and talk to the class about their pets and also about what their favourite animal is and why. Photos of pets/animals are very welcome on Tapestry!

The children were impressive with their singing in the Nativity. We will be working on perfecting our class ensemble through nursery rhymes which supports the children's language development.

Physical Development

We have been building our gross motor movement skills using the balancing beams, tyres, trikes, jumping stones, crates and trampolines. Forest School has been providing excellent opportunities for the children to build their movement skills using their climbing skills, ability to pull their whole self-up onto the tyre swing and digging using large spades.

This term, we will continue building gross motor skills by using and following sequences and patterns of movement. We may use a variety of movements in a pattern, following instructions and following a leader. This will include dance patterns along to music whilst exploring body percussion.

As children continue to build their fine motor skills, they will build their comfortable grip using mark making tools, and they will continue building their control when mark making.

We will continue supporting children's fine motor skill developing by following hand control activities every morning and 'Theraputty' in addition to malleable activities to build fine motor skills; rolling, pinching, poking, stretching and squeezing the dough. We will be incorporating our topics and the children's interests to maximise their engagement.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Last term, the nursery children were developing their confidence with others and building friendships in the class. They will continue engaging in group activities and will be supported to develop their play experiences with others.

The children have been building their understanding of the school values; Ready, Respect, Safe. The children are becoming increasingly able to follow the school values and understand why they are important. We often refer to the school values using pictures to help remind us what it means to stay safe and how we can stay safe at school, how we can be respectful to each other and how we show that we are ready to learn.

Another focus this term will be emotional literacy. We will support the children to recognise their feelings and emotions, teach empathy through stories and questions, and develop strategies to cope with strong feelings and emotions. We will support the children to find solutions and resolve conflicts within group play so that they can begin to learn to do this independently.



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Literacy

We have started to build the children's phonological awareness using Fred Talk games. We have played 'Fred I Spy' and 'Fred Says'. The children are given a word using Fred Talk and are encouraged to blend the sounds together and repeat using Fred Talks. "Fred says, tap your h-e-d." (Head). We focused greatly on our sound discrimination skills by tuning into and becoming aware of how things sound different. We will continue building children's phonological awareness and will continue to explore rhyming words, we will play games such as 'silly soup' where we explore rhyming objects. This term we will look more closely at syllables and alliteration. We will also focus on vocabulary and how two different words can have similar meaning, e.g. big/enormous, terrible/bad. We will be reading many stories relating to our topics.

Recommended books

Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy, Each Peach Pear Plum

Maths

Last term we focused on children's comparative skills. This term we will move on to developing children's classification skills. Our adult led activities focus on building children's pre-counting skills, and developing their mathematical vocabulary and reasoning skills. The children engage in adult led activities based around children's interests where they practice new learning with support and then they build independence in choosing time, and when we revisit activities.

This term we will be classifying objects, and non-objects such as syllables in our names. We will be using the key vocabulary; **more, less, fewer, few, most, many, together, different, same, none.**

Important Dates

Thursday 4th January - First day back for Spring Term

Wednesday 14th February - Parents evening

Thursday 15th February - Parent's evening

Friday 16th February - Finish for half-term

Monday 26th February - Back to school

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Wednesday 27th March - End of Spring term - 2pm finish

Learning Journals - Tapestry

We are very grateful for your continued support with the use of Tapestry to share your child's learning with you.

Thank you to those of you that have commented on observations and added some of your own. The children are actively engaging in learning activities and play and Tapestry is a great platform for you to see what they have been up to. We also love to see what you get up to!

Understanding the World

We are following the children's interests and learning about animals this term. We will be looking at how we can explore different groups of animals within open-ended play in our small world and role play area. The children will be encouraged to apply key vocabulary, facilitated by the adults in the classroom, to extend their play. We will also be focusing on forces and how things work. We will be observing the winter season and the changes we see into spring.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term, we will develop children's creativity further by encouraging them to explore a range of materials. We will encourage the children to develop ideas of how to use a range of materials. Using critical thinking skills, the children will be creating their favourite animal.

We will continue to sing our nursery rhymes frequently. We use a bag of nursery rhyme props and learn rhythm with the help of Miss Mayhew's guitar and will develop this skill using a range of instruments.

Suggestions for activities at home

- Continue sharing daily stories. Your child could repeat key phrases and fill in missing words from repetitive phrases. Encourage them to think about what might happen next, or how will the story end.
- Sing a variety of nursery rhymes together, some of our favourites are; 5 Little Monkeys, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Incy Wincy Spider. Discuss words that rhyme by talking about words that end with the same sound.
- Encourage your child to count using fingers when singing number nursery rhymes, 5 currant buns or 5 little ducks.
- Set aside time for helping your child to independently put on their coat and shoes. Focus on step-by-step achievable goals.