



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

The children have been previously focusing on speaking more confidently and using words such as 'and' and 'because' to extend their vocabulary. This will be extended further and children will be encouraged to describe events in more detail.

In order to build on these skills this term, children will have the opportunity to further develop by exploring the meaning of new vocabulary linking to all areas of learning.

A key focus this term will be to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary through engaging in non-fiction texts, and building our understanding of unfamiliar words.

Children will also be encouraged to use talk to work out problems and organize thinking, explaining how things might work and why they might happen.

Physical Development PE will be on Friday mornings

Children have previously been taught about the importance of exercise and the effect it has on their bodies. They have then explored their spatial awareness through travelling in a variety of ways. The children will be able to explore their balancing and co-ordination skills through a variety of ways during their child-initiated learning, such as using the balancing steps and using the stilts.

The outdoor area and Forest School has been useful in supporting and building balancing skills and core strength in the children. This will continue to be a focus by encouraging the children to transfer and build on these skills by providing opportunities for risk and challenge.

We will also be continuing to focus on letter formation and pencil grip this term, which builds on prior fine motor activities, which have begun to strengthen the children's fingers and hands.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In the Autumn term, a strong focus was on learning about our values of 'Ready, Respect, Safe' and unpicking what these meant and how the children could display these at school. The children have shown an understanding of what these values mean and the focus will now build on from this and move to managing their feelings and self-regulation.

We will be learning about our own feelings and how we display these emotions to others. We will also be developing our understanding of the feelings of others and how these may be affected by our own actions and words.

It is of high priority in Reception that children build confidence and independence in order to feel able to face new challenges. We will therefore be continuing to build on growth mind-set, as well as working collaboratively to solve problems.



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Literacy

We have learnt the first Set 1 sounds in Read Write Inc. and will now build on this to begin to use their phonic knowledge to write labels, captions and lists. Children will be taught how to begin to write simple sentences using a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces. Daily Read Write Inc. sessions will continue and this will revise sounds taught previously and then move onto exposing children to new Set 2 sounds. They will build on their blending skills by reading multi-syllabic words and words with 4 or 5 sounds.

We aim to continue to instil a love of stories and books and with a daily story time, along with a home reading book and home library book. We will learn more about story settings, characters, structure, language and predictions.

Understanding the World

Children will be learning about the season of Spring and will be delving into our topics of Creatures Great and Small and The Natural World. We will be mainly focusing on Farm animals to start with and learning about why farms are important and how farming has changed over time. This will be linked through our other areas of learning too.

Forest school will continue to take place on Fridays where the children will be encouraged to observe, find out about and identify features of the environment.

Children will also be learning about the celebrations of Chinese New Year and Easter.

Maths

Building on the children's ever-growing knowledge and understanding of number, this term they will have opportunity to practise subitising with increasing confidence.

They will continue to develop object counting skills, using a range of strategies to develop accuracy.

Children will continue to compare sets using key comparison language of more, fewer and equal. They will then begin to explore ways of making unequal sets equal and reason how to do this.

Children will have the opportunity to explore the composition of odd and even numbers, looking at the 'shape' of these numbers. This will then encourage children to begin to link even numbers to doubles.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children have previously explored textures and colour but will be deepening this understanding further by encouraging children to create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.

The children will be encouraged to explore colour mixing and creating a range of shades by adding white or black. They will also further develop their use of creating for a purpose and experiment with joining techniques when using junk modelling materials.

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.

Please continue to add any 'Wow Moments' from outside of school as it is wonderful to see how the children are applying and practising their learning outside of the classroom environment.

Suggestions for activities at home

- When sharing a story together ask them why they think something has happened or what might happen next. They could pretend to be a character from the story and talk about how they are feeling or why they have made the choices they made.
- Make up silly rhymes where you use words that begin with the same letter or the words all rhyme, like "cat", "bat" and "hat".
- Play number snap or bingo with numbers that you have cut out of a magazine.
- Sing number songs where they have to count backwards like "Five Little Ducks" or "Ten Fat Sausages"
- Make patterns with buttons or lids, like "big, small, big, small".
- Play games using sounds such as "Can you j-um-p?" or "Can you h-o-p?" and they have to put the sounds of the word together and show you the action.