

What Are We Learning At The Firs This Term?



We have created an environment that stimulates children's curiosity and enables each child to engage in activities and develop their skills without being directed by an adult. Each activity area is equipped with all the necessary provision to learn, practise and develop their skills. We call this 'continuous provision'. Allowing the children to pursue their own interests means that they are deeply engaged in their play and therefore learning is at its greatest. Through their observations and interactions with the children, practitioners will spot a 'teachable moment' which involves engaging with the children and gently moving their learning on to the next step.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this term, the children will learn about different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing such as regular physical activity, healthy eating, tooth brushing, sensible amounts of 'screen time', having a good sleep routine and being a safe pedestrian. We will also learn about how to care for the seeds that we have planted and how to look after the chicks. As we approach the end of the summer term, we'll prepare the children for a smooth transition into Year 1 through stories and discussion sessions. The children will also spend a morning with their new teacher in their Y1 class.

Pine Summer Term 2026



Physical Development

Throughout this term, the focus in PE will be 'fundamental skills' such as running, balancing, jumping, hopping and skipping. We will also be practising our events for Sports Day, focusing on working as a team. We will continue to develop fine motor skills through activities such as playdough, cutting, drawing and daily handwriting practice. We will continue to teach the children woodwork skills which will include using real tools such as a hammer, drill, screwdriver and saw (under close supervision!) and then apply these skills when making their own models.

Communication and Language

The children will continue to develop their communication and language skills as they play and learn with others. Adults in Pine will model and extend children's language, helping to reinforce understanding and develop vocabulary. Children have opportunities to speak in both small groups and as part of a whole class, during daily learning inputs. The 'Drawing Club' programme will continue into the summer term. We choose texts which we believe are worth reading and re-reading and we extend and deepen children's vocabulary so that they can understand the stories. We provide props to encourage children to retell familiar stories with their peers during child-initiated play. Linked to our work on the lifecycles of a plant, a frog and a chick, the children will listen to and talk about selected non-fiction texts to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

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Literacy

Children will continue to develop their skills in reading and writing through their daily RWI session. For those children who have consolidated their Set 1 sounds, we will teach Set 2 sounds (followed by Set 3 sounds if appropriate) through giving the children lots of opportunities to read and write words containing these sounds. Our Drawing Club sessions are a lovely way to introduce new vocabulary and share stories together and they give children the opportunity to practise their sentence writing in a fun and imaginative way. There will also be other opportunities to write, linked to their experiences in Pine, for example, writing a diary about the changes from a tadpole to a frog or a set of rules for keeping our chicks safe! Every day, we will continue to share and discuss stories, non-fiction books, poems and rhymes, emphasising new vocabulary.

Mathematics

During the summer term, children will practise addition by combining parts to create a whole and then they will move onto subtraction. This will help the children to automatically recall number bonds to 5 and 10, extending to 20 if appropriate. There will be a focus on understanding the numbers to twenty and beyond, recognising patterns in the counting system. They will also explore the relationship between doubles and halves and begin to understand why numbers and quantities can be described as odd and even. The children will develop their understanding of 2D/ 3D shapes, describe their properties and be able to find them in the environment. We will also begin to explore sharing and grouping in practical ways.

Expressive Arts and Design

During the term, children will have the opportunity to explore and refine their skills in using an extended range of media in the creative area such as oil pastels and water colours. The outdoor role play area will be adapted in response to the interests of the children such as a vets, café or garden centre. It often lends itself to children taking on the role of a shopkeeper or customer and using coins to pay for different items. In their whole class music sessions, children will listen and respond to different styles of music and join in with activities that embed pulse, rhythm and pitch. They will learn to sing along with nursery rhymes and action songs which will lead to playing instruments.

Understanding the World

This term, the children will be learning about the seasons of Spring and Summer. They will have opportunities to look for signs of both seasons and make comparisons between them. Linked to our work on lifecycles, we will have an exciting opportunity to incubate our own chicken eggs and watch the chicks hatch and grow. We get to look after them for about 10 days and during this time, the children learn how to care for them. The children will also help to plant a variety of flower and vegetable seeds in our garden and then harvest the produce when it's ready which they get to enjoy at the snack table! They get first-hand experience of learning about the lifecycle of a frog by observing our tadpoles in the Pine pond. As part of our work on 'People Who Help Us', we will be thinking about how we are helped by members of our community and the children will have the opportunity to visit Ampthill Library and the local Fire Station.

Home Learning

We ask that you hear your child your child read **three to four times a week**. We find little and often works best with young children so just 5 or 10 minutes will really support your child's learning in this area. Please make a note in your child's reading record each time you do this and we will award a Dojo for every reading entry. As always, we love to see what the children have been up to outside of school. Please feel free to share any special moments, achievements, or celebrations on your Class Dojo so that we can celebrate these in school. Thank you!