

What Are We Learning At The Firs This Term?



Planning In The Moment is an approach where practitioners plan a topic spontaneously based on what the child is interested in; therefore our learning may encompass many different topics throughout the 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

Throughout this term, we will continue to encourage the children to become more independent so that they are able to attend to their own needs e.g. finding a resource in the classroom, eating their lunch. We will have a focus on good manners, kind and caring behaviour, sharing and fairness. We continue to support and encourage the children to share and take turns during their play and to ask for help from an adult when needed.

Pine Spring Term 2024



Physical Development

This area of learning will be covered everyday through using the resources in our outdoor classroom. In our PE sessions we will be playing whole class and group games focusing on: moving safely in a space and responding to commands. Children will also use apparatus to improve their balancing skills and exploring different ways of moving their bodies. We will continue to develop fine motor skills through activities such as playdough, cutting, drawing and daily handwriting practice. The children will also be taught woodwork skills 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. Children particularly enjoy sharing and talking about their photos from home, during their focus week. As part of the Read, Write Inc. 'Talk through Stories' programme, we will introduce and provide opportunities to use new vocabulary, related to our story of the week.

What Are We Learning At The Firs This Term?



Literacy

Children will continue to develop their skills in reading and writing through daily Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) lessons. As well as consolidating Set 1 sounds, we will start to teach Set 2 sounds. Children will have their own yellow Set 2 and 3 Speed Sounds book so that they can practise the sounds at home. As part of the RWI 'Talk through stories' programme, we will build upon the children's love of stories by introducing a 'story of the week'. Children will also have opportunities to tell, write and act out their own stories which they love!

Mathematics

During the Spring term, there will be opportunities to classify and compare groups of objects within 10, developing language of greater than, less than and equal to. They will practise the skill of counting a set of items accurately and comparing this to the amounts in other sets. They will be counting forwards and backwards to find out the difference between two numbers. Children will develop spatial thinking and spatial language linked to position and direction. They will know the position of numbers to 10 and their relationship to other numbers and they will begin to have automatic recall of numbers to five and know some bonds to 10 e.g. $6+4$, $7+3$.

Understanding the World

This term, the children will be learning about the seasons of Winter and Spring. They will have opportunities to look for signs of both seasons and make comparisons between them. As the weather starts to warm up, the children will also help to plant a variety of flower and vegetable seeds in our garden. We will have an exciting opportunity to learn about life cycles by incubating our own chicken eggs and watching the chicks hatch and grow. The children will explore and learn about different cultures and ways of life, including festivals such as Holi and Easter. During our weekly visits to the ICT suite, the children will continue to explore a variety of computer programmes.

Expressive Arts and Design

As part of our continuous provision the children have endless opportunities to explore this curriculum area. Each day, children have access to painting, drawing, model making and collaging, allowing for self-expression and exploration of different materials. We also have a broad range of resources to support imaginative play, both inside and outside, for example wooden blocks and small world toys, our home corner and role play resources. The children will enjoy taking part in music and singing sessions during whole class inputs so they will continue to build up a varied and interesting repertoire of songs!

Home Learning

We ask that you hear your child read at least 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. Once your child reaches Red band books, your child's RWI teacher will regularly add new books and quizzes on Oxford Owl for them to complete! You'll find your child's log in details at the back of their Reading Record.

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 child's Tapestry account.