

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

As part of the PSED Jigsaw programme, the children will be 'Celebrating Difference' during the first half term. This will include accepting that everyone is different, including others when working and playing, using kind words and knowing how to give and receive compliments. During the second half of the term, the topic will be 'Dreams and Goals'. The children will learn about staying motivated when doing something challenging, how to work well with a partner or in a group, developing a positive attitude, working hard to achieve their own dreams and goals and helping others to achieve their own goals.

Pine Spring Term 2026



Physical Development

Through the topic of Minibeasts, children will develop fundamental ball skills such as rolling and receiving a ball, throwing to a target, bouncing and catching, dribbling with feet and kicking a ball. Children will be given opportunities to work independently and with a partner. After half term in PE, the children will develop their fundamental movement skills through the topic of All About Me. This will include balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling. They will learn how to stay safe using space as well as follow rules and instructions. Children 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 and screwdriver 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. We plan a story session every day where we read a high quality text which introduces the children to new vocabulary.

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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. They will continue to use their Fred Fingers to spell words using sounds they know and we will start to teach how to write simple phrases and sentences. We will build upon the children's love of stories by reading a high quality text during our daily story session. We will also share 'core' stories which the children will get to know really well and then be able to retell.

Mathematics

During the Spring term, children will develop a deeper understanding of numbers to 10, for example, finding one more and one less and exploring composition of number (knowing that numbers can be made up of smaller numbers e.g. 5 equals 2 and 3). We will teach children to compare numbers to 10, using the language 'more' and 'fewer'. They will also explore number bonds to 10 (i.e. finding which 2 or 3 numbers can be added together to make 10 e.g. 4 and 6, 2 and 3 and 5). Towards the end of the Spring term, we will focus on teaching doubles to 10 (e.g. 2 and 2 equals 4) and explore odd and even numbers. Children will also have opportunities to compare weight, length and height, using comparative language such as heavier, taller, shorter. We will also teach 2D and 3D shapes as well as repeating patterns.

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. The children will explore and learn about different cultures and ways of life, including festivals and celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Ramadan, Holi and Easter. We will invite members of the community to share their experiences of how they celebrate. In February, we will take part in the whole school 'Safer Internet Day'. The children will also learn about how to keep themselves healthy such as cleaning their teeth, having the right amount of sleep, not having too much screen time and exercising regularly.

Expressive Arts and Design

During their weekly music lesson, the children will learn a range of skills such as creating a sound story using percussion instruments to represent different animal sounds/ movements. They will make up new lyrics and accompanying actions which will help them to develop a sense of beat. They will also recognise a change in tempo by singing an action song with changes in speed. As part of Continuous Provision, 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 open-ended resources to support imaginative play as well as role play.

Home Learning

We ask that you hear your child read at least **three** times a week (five would be even better!). 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 so that we can see how your child is getting on with their reading at home and your child can earn a Dojo every time they read. 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 Class Dojo.

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