



# Curriculum Newsletter



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## Nursery



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### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

After the Christmas Break it will be important to spend time reestablishing our routines and expectations. The Nursery is also growing and with a new intake we will have a focus on turn taking and sharing as well as helping them get to know the Nursery, the children, staff and the resources and equipment available to them.

### Our Topic:

#### Winter Wonderland!

The children have shown a real love of animals over the last half term and we are going to extend this interest by learning about animals that live in cold regions such as penguins, polar bears and caribou. We will also spend time exploring the ice and snow.

### Communication and Language

Over the half term we will be looking to extend our vocabulary linked to our Winter Wonderland topic, this will include animal names as well as words linked to melting and freezing. Alongside this we will continue to develop our knowledge of specific concepts such as on and under and also our conversational skills.

### Physical Development

Our gross motor skills will be built on this half term by doing regular Write Dance sessions, which improves all the muscles needed to become comfortable writers, and also joining in with some yoga sessions designed to strengthen and work the core muscles. In our PE sessions we will begin by moving our bodies to music and then look at some more specific gymnastic skills using equipment and apparatus.

### Books we will be reading

We will begin by reading a book called 'Say Hello to the Snowy Animals' by Ian Whybrow and Ed Eaves. After this we will be responding to the children's interests and using texts and stories which support this.



### Literacy

Our Literacy focus this half term will be closely linked to books, we want children to become familiar with stories so that they can extend their language linked to stories we have shared. There will also be lots of opportunities for children to mark make, both with pens and pencils but also with chalks, paintbrushes and within a range of textures.

## Understanding the World

This topic will allow us to explore the season of Winter and aspects such as changing states. We will be doing activities such as rescuing animals from the ice, seeing if we can speed up/slow down ice from melting and finding ways of helping animals cross the slippery ice. We will also spend time at Forest School to see what Winter looks like in the UK and how we can help our local Wildlife too.

## Expressive Arts and Design



The children will continue to have access to a wide range of media and materials. Our art activities will encourage children to explore different processes of art and we will look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy, an artist who uses the natural world and the seasons as his inspiration.

## Mathematics

In Maths we will work on counting skills such as saying number names in order as well as developing the children's one-to-one counting skills and numeral recognition. Alongside this we will have activities linked to shape, patterns and develop the use of size language such as big/little, long/short.

## Independence in Nursery

This area is still one of absolute importance within the Nursery, and also an area we really rely on you to support at home. Over the last term we have worked really hard on the children being able to put on their coats (including turning sleeves the right way), and also with zips. This term we will continue to promote this independence and also develop glove skills.

## Clothing in Nursery

Children need to come to the Nursery dressed appropriately to the weather, we use our outdoors daily so, a warm waterproof coat is essential at this time of year, and hats/snoods/gloves are needed daily too.

**Please ensure all items coming into the Nursery are clearly named**

At Nursery your children may get messy, we do our best to cover clothes with aprons, but enthusiastic mark makers and painters sometimes mean that clothes get marks on them! Please don't send them in 'best' clothes.

## What does your child need to bring to Nursery

### **Daily:**

- a named water bottle (not in the book bag)
- a book bag

### **Half Termly (these can stay at Nursery):**

- spare clothes in a named bag
- wellington boots (named) in a named bag

**Please ensure all items coming into the Nursery are clearly named**

## Home Learning

Nursery Rhymes - singing rhymes is a great way to support your child's Literacy skills. The BBC have some lovely compilations which can be found on YouTube (search - BBC Nursery Rhymes).

Bedtime Stories - reading is a great way to develop a range of skills and share a special few minutes with your child. Please try and build this into your bedtime routine and let us know your favourite stories!

Please record your home learning on Tapestry, or email photos to Mrs Banks or Mrs Spooner. We love to see and share the children's Home Learning.