

Communication and Language:

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. We are immersing the children in a language rich environment which will include adults modelling and developing new vocabulary and language.

We will read lots of stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction books to the children as a whole class and in smaller groups. We will play with stories, act them out with puppets, story masks and props. Adults will model language in role play situations including small world play.

Literacy:

Our aim is for our children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Alongside our programme of activities to develop communication and language we will teach the children to read and write.

This begins with our RWI phonics sessions. We started these this week and have already fallen in love with Fred our phonics frog. We will be learning one letter sound each day and are aiming to learn all of speed sounds set one by half term.

Our phonics sessions cover reading, writing, spelling and handwriting.

At the end of each week we will be sending home a little phonics pack to share which letter sounds we have focused on and offer the opportunity for consolidation at home. These phonic packs will replace the individual home reading books for this first half term as we learn set 1 sounds and how to orally blend.

Please aim to look at one letter sound sheet each school night as this will count as their reading homework this half term. You could also look out for the letter sound in your regular bedtime story book, on the TV, when you're out and about etc. Please log each letter sound sheet and any associated work in your child's reading diary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

This half term is all about settling in to their new school, embedding our school values, developing strong relationships with our teaching team and making new friends.

We will spend lots of time playing and learning with your children, helping them to develop in independence within the classroom and become successful learners.



Mathematics:

Developing a strong foundation in number is essential for children to develop the necessary building blocks to excel in maths throughout their school lives.

This half term we will be focusing on counting to ten with one to one correspondence, beginning to understand conservation of number and subitising numbers to 5. We are already enjoying waking up our fingers each morning by counting to 10 and we are providing lots of opportunities for the children to count

R.E.

As a Church of England school we follow the West Sussex syllabus for Religious Education.

For the whole of the Autumn Term we will be focusing on Understanding Christianity. reading and learning about the story of creation, Adam and Eve and thinking about how to care for our world.

We have also been learning a little about what is harvest and how Christians celebrate with a Harvest Festival.

Physical Development:

We have planned a range of fine motor and hand strengthening activities for this half term, as part of the children's continuous provision. Fine motor control supports hand eye co-ordination and is closely linked to success in early Literacy.

We will have two whole class PE sessions each week on a Monday and Friday. Our PE focus this term is using beanbags and we aim to develop the children's aim, throwing and catching.

Understanding the World:

Starting school is a big step for children as they are welcomed into a new and exciting community. This half term is very much about settling in, getting to know one another, our likes, dislikes, similarities and differences, how to use new equipment and resources. We have already worked hard to develop mouse skills with the class to ensure they can access our technology – everything they have experienced previously is touch screen!

We are spending lots of time this half term getting to know your children and will be planning future learning based on their interests.

We are super excited to start our Forest School sessions too!

Expressive Arts and Design:

This half term we are focused on helping the children become independent in their access of the creative areas of the classroom such as how to gather the resources they need to make a model, choose which brushes will work best for their painting and sharing their finished work with their class.

We will be sharing lots of traditional stories, nursery rhymes and songs and modelling how to integrate this in our play – perhaps making our own stick puppets, or building a stage to perform to our friends.

Each week we have a dedicated music lesson during which we listen and respond to different styles of music, practice singing, play instruments and perform. Our focus this first half term is on finding the pulse.