

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome to Spring 1. The main themes for this half term are 'Winter', where we will be looking at the change in seasons, investigating ice and making wintry pictures. We will then move on to 'All About Me' where children will be learning about their bodies and how to keep them healthy as well as how to play well with others and discovering their likes and dislikes. We will also continue to follow children's interests so please let us know of your ideas too!

### Communication & Language

We will be focusing on speaking and listening and encouraging children to talk about their families and what they do when together. You could help your child by discussing family members' likes and dislikes as well as when you celebrate together at special times of the year such as Christmas or Diwali.

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will continue to develop children's confidence and independence as well as developing friendships. You could help your child by organising 'play dates' with other friends from Nursery. This will help them to develop turn taking as well as accepting the needs of other children.

### Understanding the World

We will continue looking at the changes in seasons as we move from Winter to Spring.

We will also be talking about our families and encouraging children to talk about special events in their lives and members of their family.

### Literacy

Children have done lots of work on listening for sounds in the environment. We are now moving on to learning about letters and the sounds they make (phonics). You could help your child at home by playing games such as I spy... using the first sound you hear/say in the word. Please ask a member of staff if you are not sure of the sounds.

### Physical Development

We have been encouraging children to put their coats and shoes on by themselves in order to help their physical development. You could help your child by allowing plenty of time for your child to learn to do it themselves at home. We will also be working on strengthening shoulders, arms (gross motor) and fingers (fine motor) to aid pencil grip and help children with pencil control, in order to help with writing when they are ready.

### Mathematics

We will continue to secure children's counting, recognition and application of numbers securely to 10 through fun games and resources, such as Numicon and building blocks. You could help your child by playing games such as pairs with numbers or board games which involve rolling a dice & counting the spots such as snakes and ladders.

Children will be continuing to develop their understanding of shape, space & measures by playing with water and sand, building blocks and making patterns with shapes and colours.

### Expressive Arts & Design

Our lovely music sessions with Mrs Mead and Mrs Bullas will continue and we will be singing songs related to Winter and about our bodies and what we can do. We will also be using instruments to copy and follow patterns.

Children will continue to develop their imaginations and creativity with role play and experimenting with different media and materials.



## Nursery Spring 1 Winter & All About Me



# How can I help my child at home?

## Clothing

It is inevitable that children may get messy during their time at Nursery - being explorative and investigating different media and materials is part of their development. Therefore, we ask that you bring in your child in clothing that you don't mind if it gets mud, paint etc. on. We do remind children to wear aprons but sometimes it is unavoidable. Please check that your child's clothes have their names in them so they do not get lost.

## Billy Bear

Billy Bear is our Nursery bear who wants to come home with you! Children will soon be able to take Billy home to take him on fun adventures! There will be a book for you to share your experience with photos and writing.

## Bags for Families

Bags for Families are now ready to go home! Please remember to sign the bag in and out.

## Local Trips

We are hoping to start local trips out in small groups. We will need parent volunteers to help with this. Please let your child's keyperson know if you are able to help. More information to follow.

## Read, read, read!

Please find the time to share a book with your child at least once a day. As well as this being lovely time to spend together, it will also help to develop children's understanding of how stories are structured and the different characters. If you encourage them to join in with the parts they know, it will also help speech and language development too.

You could also ask your child to read to you - children love using pictures to tell a story!

## Talk about books:

Discuss the illustrations, the characters or whether you like the book and why. We are now doing a lot of predicting about stories with questions like 'what might happen next?' and 'how do you think the character is feeling?' to develop a deeper understanding of the story.



## Sing!

Singing also helps to improve communication and language as well as creative skills. Ask a member of staff for a demo of our song of the week!

## 2Build a Profile



We have sent out all the observations for last half term but some email addresses are coming up as incorrect or not activated. If you did not receive your child's observation report, please let a member of staff know. You may need to check your junk mail for the email to activate the account.

We love to know what you have been doing at home too! Please use the Wow Voucher slips as well as the reply to the 2 Build a Profile emails sent to keep us posted!