



MANOR PARK CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL &  
PRE-SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers of Preschool

Welcome back to the new term here at Manor Park First School. We hope you have all had a lovely break and are ready to get back to Preschool.

Our topic this half term is 'Sunflowers.'



Here is some information to outline what your children will be learning this half term in all the different curriculum areas. Do encourage your child to tell you about what they have been learning at school – it really helps the children to secure their learning when they discuss it with others.

In **communication and language** (including **reading** and **writing**) we are learning to:

This half term we will continue to develop children's listening and communicating skills. We will be asking them a range of what and why questions in order to extend their thinking and answers. They will be encouraged to ask questions themselves in order to find out more.

We will be reading a range of texts which focus around our 'sunflower' theme. Children will be encouraged to retell the story using story props and create pictures to share their learning. They will continue to develop their writing skills by making marks and giving meaning to them.

They will be introduced to new vocabulary and will have a range of opportunities to develop their understanding of these new words.

Our focus texts for the half term are-



We will be learning new poems and songs and the children will be encouraged to retell these using props and musical instruments. They will have the opportunity to showcase these to an audience.

In **Physical development** we are learning to:



In Physical development, children will be developing their ball skills. They will be learning to catch and throw accurately and will develop dribbling and kicking a ball.

They will continue to take part in a range of activities to develop their gross motor skills. This will be through 'squiggle whilst you wiggle' which is a movement and music approach. This introduces children to letter shapes. They will also take part in yoga and other moment activities to develop their core strength.

Alongside developing their gross motor, we will also continue to support their fine motor development by ensuring that they have opportunities to take part in a range of activities. Some of these activities will include using scissors, threading, stacking and building, using tweezers and buttons.

### Phonics

Our Butterfly children (those children who will be starting school in September) have just begun our Pip and Pap phonics scheme which is used across the school. They will continue to learn two new sounds a week. We will practise saying the sound when they see the letter, be able to hear sounds in words and will be able to orally blend sounds together to make a word. For example d-o-g makes dog.

We will practise writing these sounds in a range of ways- using chalks, paint, pencils and pens (to name a few!)

Our younger children will continue to take part in a range of activities which will support their phonetic development.

In **Personal social and emotional development (PSED)** we are learning to:

Talk about our feelings in a more elaborate way: "I'm sad because..." or "I love it when ...".

Develop independence and will try to do things by themselves.

Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.

Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.

Talk with others to solve conflicts.

Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

Begin to understand how others might be feeling.

We will continue to follow our Jigsaw scheme as well as working with your children daily to help to support and develop their PSED skills.

Our Jigsaw focus is 'Relationships.'

Butterfly children will-

\*Talk about their families

\*Know how to make friends

\*Talk about what I like about my friends

\*Know what to do if they feel sad

\*Use some calming activities to manage my feelings

\*Enjoy being with my friends and working together

**Mathematics** 

Our Caterpillars will be learning to-

Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.

Use positional language.

Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity

Recites numbers in order to 10.

Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item.

Recognise some numerals of personal significance.

Fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').

Recite numbers past 5.

Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.

Our Butterflies will be learning to-

Use everyday language to discuss length, size, height, weight, time, position and capacity. Use this language to make simple observations, e.g. this is heavier than that.

Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...'

Understand position through words alone for example, "The bag is under the table," with no pointing.

Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.

In **Expressive Arts** we are learning to:



We will look at a range of different artwork and will talk about how it was created (which materials/techniques were used). We will discuss what we like about it and why. We will use a variety of resources and techniques to create our own pieces of art (ready for our exhibition!)

We will look at Eric Carle and Van Gogh artwork

We will create a range of flowers using the following techniques- dot printing, mud, bubble wrap, using utensils (such as a fork) to create different effects.



In **Understand the World** we are learning to:



Children will plant seeds and will observe them growing. They will learn about the things that seeds need in order to grow. They will learn about the importance of taking care of living things.

They will explore the natural world around them using all of their senses- for example, they will be able to look at a range of herbal plants, touching and smelling them

They will visit an allotment and will see how plants and vegetables grow.

In RE we will be asking and answering the following questions-

- Special places and what they mean to us
- Where is a special place for Christians and Muslims?
- What is important in a Church and a Mosque?

We will continue to develop the children's understanding of our school mission which is love for God, love for each other and love for learning.

#### **Additional class information:**

##### PE days

PE days will continue to be on a Monday and a Wednesday. Please ensure that your child comes into Preschool wearing blue jogging bottoms or leggings, a white t-shirt and their blue school jumper or cardigan. Please also ensure that they are wearing trainers.

Please note, our curriculum gives us plenty of opportunities to support your child's physical development so if they do not attend on a Monday and/or a Wednesday please be assured that they will still have many opportunities.

##### Library books

We will continue to change your child's library book every week. If your child is in Preschool on a Tuesday please ensure that their library book is in their bag ready to change. If they are not in on a Tuesday, we will change it the next day that they are in. Thank you.

### Tapestry/Parent Hub

Please continue to check Tapestry and Parent Hub regularly for any updates. We will continue to make observations on Tapestry and ask that you also make observations. If you are having any problems accessing these, please speak to a member of the team. Please ensure that you have downloaded both apps.

### Dates for the diary

During the week commencing 6th May, some of our children will be walking to our local allotment. Date to follow.

During the week commencing 20th May, we will be holding an exhibition for you to come into school to see your child's art creations. A date and time will follow.

### Reminders

Please ensure that your child has spare clothes in their bags (trousers, top, jumper and underwear). Many thanks.

Please remember to access Tapestry regularly to view observations and to add your own observations about your child's 'wow' moments

If your child is absent from Preschool, please can we ask that you call the school office on 01305 268741 before 9am. Please can we ask that you do not use Tapestry or the Preschool email address to inform us of your child's absence- thank you.

We had a number of children arriving late to their sessions last half term. When children arrive late, this not only impacts on their learning but also is unsettling for the other children. Please can we ask that you arrive on time. Many thanks for your support.

### Ideas to support your child's learning at home

We will continue to use Tapestry to share ideas on how you can support your child at home. Here are some other ideas-

\*read a range of fiction and non fiction books linked to our 'sunflower' topic

\*Visit a local garden centre or gardens and spend time looking at the variety of plants

\*grow your own plants and vegetables

\*provide opportunities for your child to explore creating pieces of artwork using a range of resources- junk modelling, paints, playdough, crayons etc. We would love to see what they have created!

\*Continue to practise their cutting skills at home (supervision recommended!)

\*share stories and rhymes with your child on a daily basis

We look forward to a fantastic half term!

Mrs Gillott and the Preschool Team