



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

Mellstock Avenue
Dorchester, Dorset
DT1 2BH

Head of School: Mrs Tamara Sterck

LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR EACH OTHER
LOVE FOR LEARNING

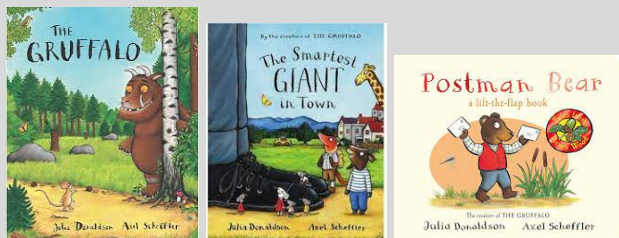
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Dear parents and carers of Preschool,

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. 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 be focusing on the author Julia Donaldson. Our key texts will be The Gruffalo, The Smartest Giant in town and Postman Bear. We will then move onto the text The Jolly Postman Christmas to support our learning about the festive season.

Your children will be immersed in these texts with a focus on them being able to retell the stories orally. They will be asked who, what and where questions in order to support their comprehension. We will focus on key vocabulary from each text, exploring what these words mean and encouraging the children to use these new words in their speech.

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



The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

Our PE sessions will help to develop their balance, running and stopping, changing direction, hopping and landing and travelling in different ways.

We will continue to follow our 'Squiggle whilst you Wiggle' program which encompasses a range of movements to help develop the children's gross and fine motor skills. It also focuses on the children making marks that they will later use for writing, for example straight and curved lines.

We will support your child's fine motor development by providing them with a range of activities to help them to develop their shoulder, arm, wrist and finger strength.

We will continue to encourage mark making by creating a range of provisions to inspire the children. There will be a letter station (including a post box!), making cards for the smartest giant and an elf workshop (to name a few provisions!)

They will continue to learn phonics (phase 1) which focuses on children tuning into sounds, hearing sounds in words, being able to clap syllables and be able to orally blend a word together.

We will be celebrating Nursery Rhyme week from 13th-17th November.

Activities such as manipulating playdough, treading items and using tweezers will help to develop these skills.

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



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 'Celebrating Difference' for this half term. We will be focusing on what the children are good at and how this makes them special. We will be discussing their families, their homes and how to make friends.

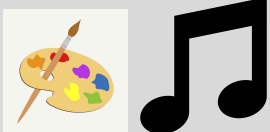
In **Mathematics** we are learning to:



Our Butterfly children (those children who are due to start school in the next academic year) will be learning how to subitise numbers to 3 (this is where you can look at a small group of objects and say how many there are without counting them). They will also be looking at patterns, making simple AB patterns and then extending these and linking amounts to numerals.

Our Caterpillar children (those who are not due to start school in the next academic year) will be completing inset puzzles, building with a range of resources, learning and recapping new nursery rhymes and will be encouraged to represent numbers using their fingers and resources. Through these activities a main focus will be on developing their language skills, working in a small group and taking turns- all very important foundation skills to help support later learning!

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



The children will take part in a range of activities to develop their artist skills.

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



The children will continue to learn about the season Autumn and as we move into Winter. They will be able to explore the world around them through daily

They will be painting, modelling and drawing using a range of materials. Our focus continues to be on the process rather than the completed piece of work. We will continue to develop the children's cutting skills.

Children will listen to a range of music daily through rhymes, movement and group music times. They will have time to explore musical instruments and notice how they sound. Through this, they will be introduced to music and dance.

opportunities to explore our school grounds. The focus will be on developing their curiosity and noticing their environment. Through this (and many other opportunities) they will be able to have hands-on exploration of natural resources.

Children will be able to share news about their family and as we move into the Christmas season what their families do to celebrate.

In RE we are learning...

How it makes us feel when we are thanked.

Why we give presents and how this makes us feel (to receive them also)

The Christmas story and the roles that the Wisemen, Shepherds and Kings played.



Additional class information:

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. If you are having any problems accessing these, please speak to a member of the team.

Dates for the diary

27th November- children walking to our local postbox- more information to follow

5th December from 1.30-2.30 we invite all children and parents into school to join us in some 'Christmas craft activities.' Again more information to follow.

Reminders

Coats, hats, etc- please ensure that your child comes into Preschool with warm clothes. We are a free flow setting so will continue to use our outside areas whatever the weather.

If your child does not have a pair of wellies or waterproof trousers/suit in Preschool please can we ask that you provide these, thank you.

Water bottles- please ensure that there is water only in these. If you would like your child to have juice, this can go into their lunchbox as a lunchtime drink.

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 an additional few ideas.....

Read stories to them daily with a focus on explaining new words/vocabulary

Opportunities to explore the world around them, for example local walks

Trips to the library, museums etc to enhance their experiences and learning

Playing games with a focus on turn taking (and not always winning!)

Developing their independence- putting on their shoes and coats by themselves. Toileting- if your child is wearing nappies is it now the time to start toilet training? Asking them to complete small jobs around your home- e.g. making their bed or helping to set the dinner table.

Nursery rhymes- continue to sing and teach your child new nursery rhymes. Research shows that if a child knows eight or more nursery rhymes by the time they are four years old, they will be one of the best readers and writers in the class by the age of eight!

We look forward to a fantastic term!

Mrs Gillott and the Preschool Team