



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 'Around the world in 30 days.'



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:

Our focus will continue to be on developing the children's language understanding and vocabulary by ensuring that their learning environments are vocabulary rich and providing plentiful opportunities for children to talk and rehearse language. We will do this by planning a range of opportunities such as regular story times throughout the day, rhymes and poems, small world and role play opportunities. Practitioners will model new vocabulary and ask key questions in order to expand children's use of speech.

Children will learn new rhymes and poems and these will be shared with you through Tapestry so that you can continue to sing/say these at home.

We will continue to celebrate all marks that children make by using a range of resources to make them - paint, pencils, felt tips, crayons, chalks, gloop, paint brushes and water. As their mark making develops, we will model making marks for meaning. We will ask children to give meaning to their marks and to consider the shapes/marks that they will need

to make when drawing something in particular. For example, if they are drawing a face they will need a circle shape for the head.

Our Butterfly children will be asked to find their name card and use this to write their name.

Our focus texts for the half term are:



Our focus for our Caterpillar children will be for them to talk about the stories and use key vocabulary from this. For our Butterfly children we will continue to model that print has meaning, a book has different parts (e.g. front cover, title) and words are read from left to right.

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



In PE children will be exploring different body parts and how they move, remember repeated movements, explore different directions and levels, adapt and perform simple dance patterns and move with control and coordination.

We will follow parent/carers lead for children who are beginning to become toilet trained and will have discussions with families about supporting children to become toilet trained.

We will continue to talk about how we keep ourselves clean and healthy, discussing food options, brushing teeth and people who help to keep us healthy.

Phonics

Our focus in Preschool is to ensure that children start reception with the skills that they need in order to start 'phase 2 phonics.' This is where children will be introduced to letter sounds. In Preschool children will continue to take part in daily phonic activities to develop their speaking and listening skills. They will be asked to 'tune in' to sounds that they hear in words, clap and hear syllables in words and be able to orally blend sounds together in order to make a word, for example c-a-t is cat.

We are planning an upcoming phonics workshop to discuss this further-more details to follow.

In **Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** we are learning to:

Celebrate differences, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender, cultures and so on.

Begin to show 'effortful control'. For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front.

Develop their independent skills by practising putting on their own shoes, wellies and coats.

Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.

Talk with others to solve conflicts. Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

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 'Healthy Me'

Butterfly children will:

- know the names for some parts of our body and start to understand the need to be active in order to be healthy
- know what the word 'healthy' means and that some foods are healthier than others
- know how to help themselves go to sleep and that sleep is good for them
- know the importance of washing their hands before they eat and after they go to the toilet
- know who my safe adults are and how to stay safe if they are not close by me

Mathematics

Our Caterpillars will be learning to:

React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items

Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - '1-2-3-5'

Recite some number names in sequence

Begin to recite numbers past 5

Begin to show finger numbers up to 5

Begin to recognise numerals of personal significance

Begin to categorise objects according to properties such as shape or size

Begin to use positional language

Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns

Climb and squeeze selves into different types of spaces

Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper

Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs' etc.

Our Butterflies will be learning to:

Explore how numbers are composed of smaller numbers

Count 5 objects

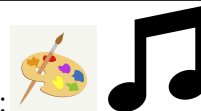
Know what the numeral 5 looks like and match the numeral 5 to the quantity

Recognise pentagons and that they have 5 sides. They will be asked to identify them by counting their sides

Explore the composition of number 5 using Numicon pieces

Subitise counters on a 5 frame and objects arranged in dice patterns. Then, show the matching amount on your fingers.

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



Children will be learning about music from around the world and taking part in movements to match music.

They will explore musical instruments and will make their own. They will match instruments to rhythm.

They will have lots of opportunities to experiment with a range of materials and will make a simple model to show their learning.

They will learn new songs and rhymes.

They will develop story lines through small world and role play opportunities.

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



We will be exploring the world around us, learning about different countries, cultures and how people live. We will begin to identify the differences and talk about our own experiences and how these are the same or different from other people and families.

We will plant seeds and learn more about how we can help to take care of our world.

We will learn about different occupations.

In **RE** we will be learning:

About Easter and learning the Easter story.

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.

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 29th February**, children will be tasting a variety of breakfast food from around the world to launch our new topic. Please inform a member of staff if there are any new food tolerances/allergies that we need to be aware of.

On **Tuesday 27th February** from 3.30-5.30 all parents are invited in for a parent consultation. This will be a face to face meeting in school. We would like to meet with all parents so please come and see us if you require a different time and date.

On **Wednesday 6th March** (in the morning) children will be walking to Tesco to purchase a range of ingredients for some cooking activities.

On **Thursday 7th March** we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children are invited to come to Preschool dressed as their favourite traditional tale character. If your child does not want to dress up that is absolutely fine. We ask that they come to Preschool in their school uniform. Thank you.

On **Friday 15th March** (in the morning), children will be walking to a local cafe (cafe to be confirmed) to enjoy a snack and a drink.

On **Monday 18th March** (in the morning), children will be visiting our local park.

Following on from the success and wonderful feedback from our Christmas craft event, we would like to invite you into school on **Wednesday 27th March** from 2 O'clock to take part in a range of Easter craft activities with your child/ren. All families are invited. We really hope to see you there!

More details will follow about our upcoming trips. If you are able to help out, that would be much appreciated. Many thanks.

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:

Encourage your child to look at the food in your kitchen and find out what countries some of it comes from. Search on a map for those countries. Help your child to trace the letter with which the name of those countries start.

Go on trips in our local environment and talk about what we can do to help look after our world.

Plant seed or flowers and watch them grow.

Visit our local library and read books from other cultures. Look at an atlas and talk about different countries.

Play games to help to develop your child's listening skills. Games such as:

What is a sound trail?

A sound trail is a game you can play when you're out and about. Choose a special sound to listen out for. When you hear that sound, talk about what you hear. Try it with your child and see if they enjoy it. The next time you and your child go for a walk, think about the sounds you might hear. Suggest things to listen out for. Perhaps cars, birds, other people, aeroplanes. On your walk, pause every now and then and listen together. Ask your child: "What sounds can you hear?" You can talk about what's making the noise, whether it's loud or quiet. Are they the sounds you thought

you'd hear? If you have space to explore, like a park, perhaps you can follow a sound and see where it leads. Maybe birdsong will take you across the park. You can have fun making your own sounds too, like crunching leaves or snapping twigs. Can your little one copy the sounds they hear, like birds going 'tweet' or cars going 'vroom'? What's their favourite sound?

Spotting signs and logos

Next time you're out, encourage your child to look around. They might notice letters and numbers on logos and signs. Talk about the things they notice, they might recognise some of the shop signs and logos and be able to read what they say... this is the beginning of your child understanding the link between the written and spoken word. While you're out your child might be able to help you search for a shop if you tell them the colour, shape or first letter of its name or logo.

At home you will have logos on items too, like on your TV, a shopping bag, food packaging or on a toy. Encourage your child to notice and talk about them. Streets signs can also be a learning opportunity. See if you and your child can spot a sign that has the first letter of their name in it. Read any words you see on the sign aloud to your child, so they can begin to learn the meaning. This works with numbers too, look at house numbers and licence plates to see if you can spot your child's age.

We look forward to a fantastic half term!

Mrs Gillott and the Preschool Team