

## Literacy and Communication and Language

This half term we will be reading the story "We're going on a bear hunt." Our intention is to ensure that by the end of the half term the children are able to retell the story orally. We will be teaching them makaton signs to go with the story and creating a story map to help to retell it.

We will then model how stories can be changed and will link this in with the many trips that we have planned for this half term... for example we will be going on a bear hunt to the park, Tesco, to see the trains and to St Osmonds pond.

We will continue to focus on developing your child's vocabulary by exposing them to new words and linking these with experience wherever possible.

We will continue to encourage children using a range of mark making resources.

Where will our wellies take us?  
Spring 1 2023  
Preschool

## Expressive Art and Design

We love to explore a range of things such as paint, playdough, sand and water and we will continue to do so!

We have a big focus on the process of a child's creations rather than the outcome and therefore ensure that the children have lots of opportunities to make their own pieces of art which are supported by an adult but not initiated by us.

## Maths

The children will continue to practise their subitising skills (this is when you look at a small group of objects and without counting are able to say how many there are). Our older children, will be exploring numbers and representing these in different ways. They will be learning about how numbers are made up of parts and will be finding all of the different ways of making a number.

Throughout all activities we will be encouraging them to use their mathematical reasoning skills by modelling sentences that begin with "I think ...." or "I know...."

## Understanding the World

We will be learning all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.

We will be thinking and talking about what we celebrate and how this might be different to other people.

We will be going on lots of trips around our local environment. We will continue to use our school grounds to explore to world around us and the changing seasons.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

It's not just about what the children know but their approach to learning....

In Early Years, the Characteristics of Effective Learning focus on the type of learner your child is and the stage that they are at. It is at the heart of their learning journey and as practitioners we spend time focusing and supporting your child with this.

Children (as with everything!) develop at different times within this. These characteristics are broken down into **Playing and exploring** - Within this, we will support your child and observe: Does your child play and explore? Do they play with what they know? Are they willing to have a go? The main focus is on exploration.

**Active Learning**- This is all about a child's engagement. We will observe and support your child by asking: Are they involved and can they concentrate? Do they keep on trying even when something is proving to be challenging? Do they enjoy achieving what they set out to do?

**Creative and Critical Thinking**- This is all about thinking. We will observe and support (and ask)... does your child have their own ideas? Do they make links with their learning (for example "I did this the other day... we learnt about this when...." Do they work well with others?)

## Things to remember....

Please can you child come into school each day with a named **water** bottle.

We will aim to change your child's library book on either a Tuesday or a Thursday (unless your child is not in on one of these days and we will therefore change it with them on another day).

Please send your child in with a warm coat and a hat, gloves and scarf as we will continue to use our wonderful outdoor areas!  
Thank you!

## Things to do at home

Continue to share lots of stories at home with your child, talking about the story as you read it (e.g. What might happen next? How do they feel? What do you like most about this story?)

Encourage your child to retell the story. This could be through finding objects (toys) to represent the characters or retelling the story whilst looking at the pictures in the book.

Practise putting on their coat, hat, gloves and shoes by themselves- we encourage the children to be as independent as possible.  
Number- counting e.g. can they count how many stairs they have as they walk up them?