



# Foundation Stage 1 Curriculum Letter Summer Term 2017

The focus for this term is  
"In the Garden"

## Learning will be based around:

Plants and growing  
Exploring the Garden  
Mini-beasts  
Life cycles

## Teaching Staff

Mrs Parkes  
Mrs Sample

## Support Staff

Mrs Laughton  
Mrs Dent



## Welcome back

Welcome back to the beginning of the Summer Term. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new children and parents. Our staff comprises of 2 teachers Mrs Parkes and Mrs Sample. Mrs Parkes will teach Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mrs Sample will teach Thursday and Friday. Mrs Laughton and Mrs Dent are the support staff who also work in Nursery. Please find outlined key information for the term. On the back of this letter you will find curriculum information and activities that you may wish to try at home.

## Voluntary Contribution

We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p a week. This enables us to 'cook' up lots of exciting things in our kitchen area with the children which allow them to experience working with, and trying new foods. Without this voluntary contribution we would not be able to do these exciting things. Thank-you for your continued support.

## Home Loan

In Nursery we operate a home loan system which is situated in the cloakroom area. Choose a book with your child to share at home and record it on their card.

## Outdoor Learning

We go outside as much as possible (every day) please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear (no open toed sandals) including a sun hat and apply sun cream if hot and sunny. Please name all items of clothing.

## Dates for your diary

Zoolab Visit to school - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June more details to follow.

Nursery fundraising enterprise week - sponsored event 22<sup>nd</sup> May

PDday Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

<p><b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></p> <p>We will be continuing to settle the newer children so they feel safe and ready to learn with a focus on developing confidence. The children will participate in weekly circle times and will follow the SEAL scheme of work. This term it involves the topics 'It's Good to be Me' and 'Changes', in which, for the older children we will be focussing on the transition into Reception and school readiness.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage your child to talk to you about things they have learned to do at home and at Nursery.</li> <li>- Play games that involve taking turns and sharing.</li> <li>- Use the 'I can Camel' stickers to let us know what your child has achieved at home.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to develop their independent skills eg - getting dressed/undressed by themselves, tidying up or helping around the house.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to become more independent with their personal hygiene which we know is also important too.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>This term we will be continuing to focus on developing physical skills in the outdoor space using scooters, climbing equipment, balls, hoops and construction blocks as well as developing running, jumping, hopping and different ways of moving. This will be complimented with our fundraising enterprise - more details to follow. We will be reintroducing a muddy messy play area where the children can explore whilst digging and filling plant pots with soil. We will be having fun with 'Squiggle while you Wiggle' sessions and 'messy play' to help develop finer manipulative skills and exploring senses.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take a trip to the park and encourage your child to climb and jump from play equipment safely. See if they can come up with their own ways of moving around the park or travelling under, over, through or on top of the equipment.</li> <li>- Take part in threading, cutting, painting and drawing activities.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to draw pictures and write their name, using a variety of writing implements and encourage the correct pencil grip.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>This term we will be continuing to concentrate on developing our speaking and listening skills through our new topics and Role Play Garden Centre and Secret Garden.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage your child to talk about everyday life and activities that you have done together and any new experiences.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to use toys/puppets to retell stories or events.</li> <li>- Model retelling events in the correct order then encourage your child to do the same, eg "Tell me what you did with Grandma this morning", or "Tell me how you hurt your knee" etc.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to ask questions about why things happen and how things work, and try asking them questions so they can give you explanations.</li> <li>- Develop your child's understanding and use of prepositions using the language under, on top, behind, in front, beside, next to etc. For example ask your child to put teddy on top of the table, under the chair etc.</li> </ul> <p>Older children - Remember to bring your sound books in on Friday so we can add more letter sounds.</p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>The children will be continuing to learn to recognise and write their name, and learn which sound it begins with. Within our phonics work the children will be focusing on listening skills, rhyme, rhythm and blending and segmenting simple words. We will also be working with the children to recognise sounds and letters by continuing to introduce a sound of the week using the Jolly Phonics program. We provide plenty of opportunities for your child to mark make and write eg - making marks in playdough, sand and during messy play activities, they can also use chalk, paint and a variety of pens and pencils. During periods of warmer weather the children like to mark make with water and paintbrushes outside. Our Role play areas always include opportunities to encourage early mark making and writing. Encouraging early reading skills is also an important part of our literacy work. The children enjoy a variety of books in our story area and we also have topic related stories and non fiction texts available for the children to explore. We enjoy story times which encourage listening and attention skills as well as bringing topics to life by demonstrating story language and structures. We also do regular singing with the children where they learn new songs and rhymes.</p> <p><u>At home activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support your child in writing their name.</li> <li>- Enjoy sharing a story.</li> <li>- Take a trip to the local library.</li> <li>- Encourage your child to find items at home that begin with the sound of the week.</li> <li>- Provide your child with a variety of writing implements and paper to encourage mark making, writing, drawing and colouring in.</li> <li>- Talk to your child about what we use writing for and try writing shopping lists or letters together.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p>

In Numeracy the children will be continuing their work on counting, sequencing and recognising numbers to 10/20, then moving onto finding 1 more or 1 less than a given number. We will also be focussing on shape, matching, sorting, pattern, symmetry, using the Numicon, positional language and language related to time, Eg today, yesterday, tomorrow and the days of the week. During our 'Number Time' session the children will learn to recognise a number each week and will also be taught skills as above. There are maths challenges and apparatus set up in our area where the children can practise and develop their own Maths skills and extend their learning.

#### At home activities

- Sing number rhymes with your child.
- Count objects in the environment or spot numbers when you are out and about.
- Play simple matching and number games.
- Use a dice to roll a number - hop, jump or clap that many times.
- Play simple board games such as snakes and ladders to introduce awareness of higher numbers and counting.
- Make patterns using objects or shapes.
- Practice recognising, counting to and maybe even writing our number of the week. (Displayed in Nursery)
- Discuss each day what the day is and recite the days of the week. Talk to your child about what day was it yesterday and what it will be tomorrow etc.
- Count sweets accurately, then maybe challenge your child to work out how many there will be if you eat one or give them one more etc!

Our Topic 'In The Garden' will include learning about plants and how they grow and minibeasts - ladybirds, spiders, bees, caterpillars and butterflies to name a few. We will also look at lifecycles eg - how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly etc. This topic will be enhanced by a visit from 'The Minibeast Ranger' from Zoolab, where the children will be able to see and explore a range of minibeasts in a safe and controlled environment.

We will also include awareness of the Christian faith and read together some simple bible stories.

#### At home activities

- Visit a petting farm where your child can see baby lambs, chicks and rabbits, or simply spot baby animals in fields as you drive or walk through the countryside.
- Go on a mini beast hunt in your garden or the local park.
- Enjoy looking at simple non-fiction books about any of the above topics together or visit your local library.
- Talk to your child about any religious festivals or family events you may celebrate and why they are important to you or other people.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

This term the children will be continuing to learn songs and playing instruments experimenting how sounds can be changed during Music Time and Beat Baby. They will also be working on building models using various construction kits, blocks and using junk to stick and join together. They will have the opportunity to draw and create pictures and paintings whilst exploring how colours can be mixed to make new colours. The children will also engage in a 'messy play' session where they can enjoy exploring a range of different textures whilst using their imagination and senses.

#### At home activities

- Sing simple songs and nursery rhymes together.
- Encourage your child to paint or draw to create pictures and patterns.
- Provide a variety of junk boxes - let them explore what they can make and how they can fix them together.
- Make sticky pictures by providing some old catalogues or magazines, encouraging your child to use age appropriate scissors to cut out pictures and stick them onto paper or card.

Feel free to inform us in school of any activities your child has joined in with you. You can also use the 'I Can Camel' stickers to inform us of things your child has learnt to do at home.

### What is Squiggle while you wiggle and why we do it?

Once a week your child will take part in a *Squiggle while you wiggle* session. This involves learning and practising a gross motor movement to music, beginning with dancing the movement with pompoms or wands, then moving on to making the marks with crayons, paint or chalks. We talk about the movements as we are making them i.e "Up, up, down, down" for straight lines, "Up and over" for arches, as well as which letter shapes they can help to write. Children need control of all of their fingers, both arms and body to be able to write, co-ordination is a key skill. We use Squiggle while you wiggle to help achieve this. It supports many of the EYFS objectives including; beginning to show some control in the use of tools and equipment, distinguishing and ascribing meaning between the different marks they see and make, and beginning to use anti-clockwise movements and retracing vertical lines.

### Beat Baby

Beat Baby is an appealing character designed to bring excitement and encouragement to rhyme and music sessions. This tiny character curls up in a ball, until the children wake her up with a rhyme. The children are then encouraged to join in with a variety of action songs which have steady beats to develop a sense of rhythm. Beat Baby can also be used to promote speaking, listening, creativity and thinking skills. The children take it in turns to take Beat Baby home on a Friday, with a short task for you and your child to do together.



### What is messy play and why we do it?

Every Friday we aim to set up a specific messy or sensory play activity, this could be using shaving foam, gloop (cornflour and water), coloured rice or other materials. These activities are designed to ignite children's natural curiosity, as well as build imagination and creativity. Messy and sensory play provides opportunities for your child to develop and practice fine motor skills, hand eye co-ordination and compare textures, while developing vocabulary. They will build their understanding of the world around them through investigating, exploring, designing and creating. These activities also provide many opportunities for developing mathematical skills such as sorting, counting and measuring. There are no "right" ways to explore the materials so the activities help to build confidence and self-esteem, and enable children to become involved whatever their abilities, as well as being fun!