



## Explorers Summer First Half Term 2023 Newsletter

This half term our topics are Colour, Growing Plants, Position, Beaches, Under the Sea and Being Healthy

Within these topics we will be learning about:	<p>In our phonic sessions we will continue to reinforce the phonemes taught so far. The new sounds we are learning this term are o, c/k, e, u, r and h. We are also tuning children into hearing word blends e.g. 'n-o-d your head', 'point to your ar-m', and 'what sound does a d-u-ck make?'</p> <p>We have lots of exciting events happening this half term – see the list of dates below. For the majority of these your child will take part if they are in Nursery on that day.</p> <p>All children will be invited to join in with Sports Day – if your child is not normally in on that day they will be invited to join us. I will send details as soon as I know them.</p> <p>Our PE focus for many of our Hall times this half term covers fundamental movement skills through the topic of 'all about me'. Fundamental skills will include balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling. Children will develop gross motor skills through a range of activities. They will learn how to stay safe using space, working independently and with a partner.</p> <p>Wiggle time has progressed into Squiggle Time, where we practice the large movements which will help with letter formation in future. We use our flipper-flappers (large squares of material) to practice the movements along to music first and then take those movements onto paper using a crayon in each hand.</p>
Communication and Language	<p>Understand 'why' questions e.g. 'why did the caterpillar get so fat?' Use a wider range of vocabulary. Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns. Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver."</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them. Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community. Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas. Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them. Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Talk with others to solve conflicts. Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.</p>
Physical Development	<p>Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues. Continue to develop their movement and balancing including in PE lessons. Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams. Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks including 'squiggle time'. Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet. Increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm. Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.</p>

Literacy	Understand the 5 key concepts about print – print has meaning, it can have different purposes, we read English from left to right and top to bottom, the names of different parts of a book and page sequencing. Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. Write some or all of their name. Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: • spot and suggest rhymes • count or clap syllables in a word • recognise words with the same initial sound.
Mathematics	Develop 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. Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle'). Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...' Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. 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. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'. Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'. Make comparisons between objects relating to size and length.
Understanding of the World	Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people. Plant seeds and care for growing plants. Understand the key features in the life cycle of a plant. Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced and seen in photos.
Expressive Arts and Design	Explore colour and colour mixing. Make imaginative 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits. Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. Listen with increased attention to sounds. Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings. Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.

Every day is a special day but particularly Special Days this Half Term will be:	
Don Sheppard Charity Day	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May
Coronation celebrations	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Trip to the Sea-Life Adventure and beach	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Sports Day and Picnic Lunch	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May

