

Personal Social and Emotional

We will continue building the children's social relationships through small group work concentrating this term on how we look after our friends in Preschool. Through the Chinese New Year topic we will encourage the children to make links and notice differences between their own cultural knowledge and new experiences.

As part of the Winter wonderland topic the children will be supported to show concern and respect for the environment and creatures.

New snack time routines will develop children's independent choice and self reliance.

Mathematics

We will continue to support children's developing understanding of maths number and numerals and the connection between the two. Numeral recognition will be in accordance with age expectation and individual ability. We will be using different ways to represent number such as graphs and using these to compare amounts and make connections between big and small numbers.

Through the Chinese New Year topic the children will be supported to use maths in their play they will be helping turn the kitchen area into a Chinese restaurant, using their emerging maths knowledge and vocabulary in their play such as deciding on prices, choosing the correct number of cutlery items to lay the table etc.

Understanding the world

We will be looking at the changing seasons and weather. What differences can we see and remember between Autumn and Winter. As part of the Winter topic, children will engage in floating and sinking, freezing and thawing experiments with ice and water developing ideas as to why water freezes and melts

Investigating different habitats of wild animals and birds in the Forest school and pond areas, looking at how they survive the winter and stay warm. We will also discuss how some animals hibernate during winter.

Communication and Language

Through a variety of activities, children will be encouraged to learn new vocabulary and use this to describe, add narrative and explanation to their play. They will be encouraged to retell the *Gruffalo's Child* and *Owl babies* stories, creating their own versions using puppets and props. The children will be supported to describe their home experiences, such as Christmas and other events important to them making links between home and school. As part of our habitat topic we will be going on listening walks to hear birdsongs and other sounds in the environment.

Preschool Spring 2017 /1

Winter Wonderland

Chinese New Year

This half term we will be looking at the environment and the changes we can see in Winter. We will be looking at different types of weather and how this affects us and different animals in the environment (birds, pets etc). We will also be exploring Chinese New Year, creating a Chinese restaurant in the home corner and trying out different types of food.

We will be implementing changes to snack routine to promote choice and independence.

Observations of children's activities, their likes, dislikes and interests will decide how we progress topics through the term.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be supported, through different media, to use their imagination to create different ways of moving and responding to music. We will be making junk musical instruments creating our own imaginary bird linking to our environment and bird watching activities. We will continue to support descriptive and explanatory language linking meanings to their marks and choices.

Role play will be encouraged through the home corner, dressing up and props linked to Chinese New Year, Narrative and imagination will be developed using small world play linked to children's interests and experiences.

Physical

The children will be investigating how and why we need to keep warm in winter, noticing how temperature can affect our bodies and linking this to what animals in the environment need.

We will continue to promote gross and fine motor skills through various activities to practise cutting, pen control, risk taking and balancing. We will be developing hand / eye co-ordination through using different implements to pick up objects - forks, spoons, chopsticks, tweezers.

Literacy

Our focus stories will be *The Gruffalo's Child* and *The Owl Babies*. Children will be encouraged to develop an interest in books and understand that stories and information are conveyed in print. They will be encouraged to sequence favourite and well known stories (such as *The Gruffalo's Child*) story using puppets and props.

We will continue to share books between school and home and between the children having 'book time' everyday. The children will be supported in recognising initial letters and sounds of familiar words (names, family etc) and also forming recognisable letters and assigning meanings to marks.

How can you help?

Continue to talk to your child about what they like to do at Preschool. Share favourite stories and rhymes. Read their choice of book in their book bag, ask them questions about it. Count objects, steps etc. up to 10 and point out letters and numbers in the environment. Use phonic sounds when spelling their name.

Please remember to check your Tapestry account regularly and respond to observations and provide some of your own. We love to share your children's experiences from home.