

This half term our theme is Getting Around

Welcome back and a warm welcome to the Summer term. Our theme of *Getting Around* provides us with plenty of opportunity to discuss the wider world and how we reach it and to respond to many of the children's enthusiasm for different kinds of transport. We will be exploring cars, trains, boats and planes, and talking about where they might be going and who's on board.

As always we would really appreciate parental help. On the days when parents do come in the children benefit enormously from different experiences held in smaller groups and this term we aim to have woodwork as part of the curriculum. So please do sign up on the helpers' board by the entrance. Please remember to contribute £5.00 for this half term. We have many costs for resources that will enhance our provision for the children - ingredients for cookery, the malleable table, sand and gardening - so please do put your contribution in the tin and tick besides your child's name.

What you can do to help your child

- ✓ Arrive on time to drop off and collect your child - the gate is locked 10 minutes after the start and end of each session
- ✓ Borrow books from our book box any day and maths and language packs every Wednesday
- ✓ Look at colours and numbers with your child on the way to Nursery, such as on houses, road signs, and cars
- ✓ Read every day to your child - ask us for a book list if you would like some titles
- ✓ Our focus books will be: *The Train Ride*, *Mr Gumpy's Outing/Motorcar* (John Burningham), *Animal Train* (Martin Wormell), *Rosie's Walk* (Pat Hutchins) - talk to you child about these stories and maybe look for them in the library
- ✓ Take your child to the local library - they offer story sessions, craft activities as well as free book borrowing
- ✓ Talk with your child about their experiences at Nursery. Try not to ask too many questions immediately after a session, they are very tired, but later see if they can describe a painting or a model they have made, a game they have played or a story they heard.
- ✓ Try to get outside for a walk and a run with your child every day. Much of their learning comes from exploring outside; it encourages curiosity, a respect for the environment and numerous possibilities for new experiences and new encounters; exercise develops balance, co-ordination and spatial awareness which are known to improve behaviour and introduces young children to a healthy routine. A child who has played outside will be more co-operative, ready to eat their meals and ready to go to bed in the evening.
- ✓ Encourage your child to have a go at dressing and undressing themselves and provide them with appropriate clothing that they can manage when going to the toilet and going outside
- ✓ When the weather is especially wet or warm, please ensure your child is suitably dressed - we go outside whatever the weather. In warmer weather, please apply suncream at home as we are unable to do this for individual children at Nursery
- ✓ Please read the school and Nursery newsletters and ask any of the Nursery team for further information

We want Nursery to be a truly positive and enriching experience for you and your child, so if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Class Teacher:

Head Teacher:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

By the final term at Nursery the children are encouraged to show increasing confidence and flexibility in new situations, to take pleasure in gaining more complex skills and to show a willingness to tackle problems and enjoy self-chosen challenges.

This half term's theme of *Getting Around* provides a context for discussion about looking after the world around us and our own safety within it.

Circle time will continue to be conducted in two small groups as well as once or twice weekly whole group sessions. The children will participate in short, shared activities that reinforce co-operation and teamwork.

Children will also have the opportunity to talk about creative work for our 'Wonderful Work' display board to help develop their sense of pride in their own achievement.

Communication, Language and Literacy

The children's language skills will be developed through stories, songs, rhymes and refrains whilst child-initiated conversation will be encouraged at role-play, small group activities and the on-going provision for play throughout the Nursery.

We will explore sounds, rhythm, rhyme and alliteration through listening games using our voices, bodies and percussion.

Through repeated story-telling the children will begin to describe story settings, events, characters and their feelings. They will have the opportunity to question why things happen and to suggest how a story might end.

Our theme will allow children to talk about their own experience and to build up a relevant vocabulary that reflects this.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Activities involving shape, space, size, pattern, colour, and number will continue to develop the children's feel for maths. Learning occurs spontaneously through play across all areas of provision at Nursery as well as at more formal adult-directed activities and circle time games. Our theme of *Getting Around* will encourage discussion about distance and speed whilst number will be used to calculate the cost of tickets. Exploring and making arrangements with different construction materials will develop a further understanding of shape, space and size whilst planting seeds provides plenty of opportunity for counting out, estimating and measuring.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Daily provision in the inside and outside areas will continue to develop the children's understanding of why things happen and how things work, of the relationship between cause and effect and above all the opportunity to describe and talk about what they see.

This half term's theme provides plenty of opportunity for imaginative and role-play as we explore the different ways of getting from one place to another and discuss where we live.

We will continue to explore various construction materials, joining pieces together to build and balance, trying out a range of tools and techniques safely. This term we will begin to investigate wood and experiment with woodwork.

This time of year provides plenty of opportunity for investigating growth and changes over time, and we will be planting a variety of seeds.

Nursery half termly curriculum newsletter - April 2010

Getting Around

Creative Development

Children will have the opportunity to respond to their experiences, expressing and communicating their ideas through music, dance, drama and paint. They will explore a variety of media and materials, such as observational drawing, collage, clay and wood, working with a variety of tools and techniques.

Free painting at the easel will be available every day and we will continue to explore colour-mixing, texture and mark-making.

Our role-play area indoors will act as a ticket office for different types of transport whilst outside we will develop a workshop for repairing and refuelling our different means of getting around. The opportunity to create music, dance and drama will be explored at circle and story time as well as during our weekly music session with Lynne Holland.

Physical Development

This half term we will focus on travelling at different heights, on different parts of our bodies through the imaginative use of gym equipment in the Hall. This will involve climbing, sliding, crawling and balancing along, up, through and down.

Children will be encouraged to persevere when developing a new skill and to judge body space in relation to openings, boundaries or confined spaces.

Children will be taken into the infant playground once a week to take full advantage of the larger climbing equipment as well as to use tricycles, wheelie boards and scooters.

On a smaller scale, we will continue to provide a variety of mark-making equipment, small world activities and tools to develop hand-eye coordination.