

# Who am I?

Autumn 1 Reception 2021 – 2022



## English

This term we will begin to introduce the children to simple sounds, using the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. The children will start by learning how to say, read and write individual sounds before reading and writing them in words. We will encourage the children to recognise these sounds around the classroom at various points of the day. As well as learning sounds, we shall begin to prepare the children for writing by developing our gross and fine motor skills through construction, mark making and other strength building activities. The children will begin to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and will learn the movements needed for writing. As a class, we will be reading lots of stories to develop an understanding of story structure. We will soon be starting to tell this term's focus story 'Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle.'

## Understanding the world

Our topic aims to think about the question 'Who am I?'. We will think what makes us special by celebrating our similarities and differences. We will consider ourselves, our families and our communities. We will also begin to look at the world that we live in through the different learning activities available in our classrooms; class discussions, stories, art work, playing and exploring. We will look at the changes in our local environment as it turns to Autumn through observations and we will learn about Harvest at this time of year.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be encouraging the children to settle into the new routines and make friends. There will be a focus on taking turns, sharing, taking care of each other and our things in the classroom as well as working as a team when tidying up or during whole class time. The children will be introduced to our 'Golden Rules' and demonstrate that they can follow them. The children also learn how to access the outside learning area that we call 'The Den'.

## Expressive arts and design

Our role play area this half term is set up as a 'home corner'. We are encouraging the children to act out what they know from their own home life experiences. We encourage imaginative play such as pretend cooking, talking on the telephone, reading real life texts such as cookery books and taking on different roles. We will also teach the children how to access the creative area to produce their own works of art.

## Outside learning

In The Den our learning focus is working together as a team. This develops their communication and personal and social skill. The children are given lots of opportunities to build models on large and small scales working with one another. We also encourage the children to apply what they have learnt in the classroom to their outdoor learning for example by counting, mark making or writing and reading learnt sounds in the environment.

## Maths

The children are going to be involved in lots of different 'number' activities this half term. In particular we are focussing on understanding place value of numbers up to 5. We shall look at how these numbers can be represented in different ways such as with maths resources, real objects and written down. The children will look for number representations in the environment and will be encouraged to use maths in all areas of the classroom.

## Physical development

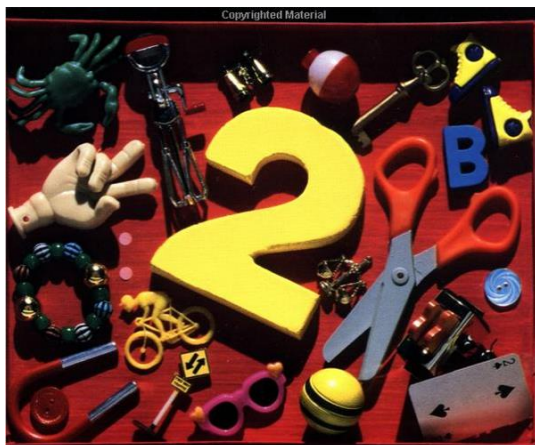
We will develop strength and control through playing outside in The Den: building using large and small construction, balancing, passing materials to each other and moving our bodies in different ways such as crawling and hopping. We will give opportunities to develop finer movement skills by using tools such as tweezers and scissors correctly.

## Communication and Language

This term we have a big focus on listening and attention and will consistently set the expectations of listening to the adults as well as one another. We will encourage the children to initiate and join in conversations with each other. We will have lots of opportunities for speaking and listening games. Talking in full sentences is another of our key priorities as well as the accurate pronunciation of sounds.

## Suggested homework challenges for you and your child to try at home...

Practise looking for maths in the local environment. Can you find numbers or representations of numbers at home, in the garden or out and about?



Play some 'Fred Talk' games – Fred is a frog who only talks in sounds. You say the sounds that make up a word and your child can try to blend those sounds together. For example:

Fred Says – Fred says 'j-u-m-p'...jump. Fred says 'r-u-n'...run.

Farmer Fred – Farmer Fred had a farm, on his farm he has a 'p-i-g'...pig. He has a h-or-se...horse.

Practise making large movements to prepare for letter formation. Move your hand down and bump the ground, up, push, pull, slide and flick.



Play games together to develop listening, sharing and turn taking.

Often games also have hidden learning opportunities too! You

- could play games such as:
- snakes and ladders or dominoes (maths skills)
  - twister (balancing)
  - pairs (memory skills)
  - jigsaw puzzles (fine motor)
  - Simon Says or I spy (listening and attention)

Play with your child using toys such as lego, bricks, cars, dolls, etc...- encourage them to count how many they have and then pose questions such as 'What is one more/less? Can you order the amounts of toys?'

Using props around the home ask you child to tell you a story. You could write it down for them or encourage them to draw a story map for their story. Can they act it out using different voices?

Make some playdough together (recipe attached) and use it to strengthen those finger and hand muscles! Roll it, squeeze it, stretch it or poke it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-lfzeG1aC4>

Have a selection of toys or items and your child to sort them by a given criteria such as colour, properties, shape. You could ask them to sort them in their own way and then ask them to explain how they have sorted them.

Compare groups of objects using vocabulary such as 'more than', 'fewer than', 'the same as'. You could also explore this in a physical way for example, 'Jump 5 times, can you jump more than that next time?'

Encourage mark making with patterns, shapes and letters. You could use pens, pencils and paint with paper or even use chalk or water (with a paintbrush) outside.

Create an obstacle course that involves balancing, crawling, hopping, skipping and planks.

These help to develop core strength and stability.

Look for signs of Autumn in the environment. What is happening to the trees? What is different about the weather? Can you go on an Autumn treasure hunt or draw what changes you can see?

# BEST EVER NO-COOK PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

## You need:

- 2 cups plain flour (all purpose)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil (baby oil and coconut oil work too)
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)
- gel food colouring (optional)
- few drops glycerine (optional)

## Method:

- Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl
- Add food colouring TO the boiling water then into the dry ingredients
- Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough
- Add the glycerine (optional)
- Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. \* This is the most important part of the process, so keep at it until it's the perfect consistency!\*
- If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until just right