



Dunmore School

Nursery Curriculum Newsletter

Terms 3 and 4



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your children have had a lovely peaceful Christmas holiday and that you are raring to go for it in 2018. A warm welcome to those of you who joined us a few weeks ago. We hope that both you and your children are getting to grips with the nursery routine. If you have any questions then don't hesitate in asking us!

Our 'topics' for the next two terms will be focussing on 'Let's find out about' and 'Growing and changing'. The main drive of these will be to help the children understand how to find out what they want to know, and enable them to access knowledge and information about the world around them.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We will be continuing to build strong relationships with the children through our focus on learning together. Throughout the year, we will be emphasising the importance of using kind hands and kind words with others and modelling our nursery rules and expectations. We will also continue to encouraging their independence by organising themselves and their belongings (i.e. putting their own shoes, wellies and coats on) and registering themselves with their name/photograph at the beginning of the session.

Communication and Language

We don't ever stop talking in nursery! We chat in our daily carpet sessions and always during our free play. This provides us with optimum opportunity to widen our vocabulary and explore the meaning of new words as well as to learn how to properly communicate with others, both, listening and responding appropriately, extending ideas and narratives.

Physical Development

Opportunities to develop fine motor skills are everywhere in our setting. From playdough to the writing table and train track on the carpet, the children's fine motor skills are continually improving. They will develop gross motor skills through playing and dancing inside and also continuously in our outdoor area (e.g. throwing and catching, climbing and running). Building up the big muscles helps the small muscles! We also have a specific PE session once a week where we play various activities/games.

Literacy

We have starting teaching discrete phonics using the Letters and Sounds program of Phonics teaching. Phase one gives the children experience of using listening skills and beginning to talk about sounds they can hear as well as tuning them into rhyme, alliteration, sounding and blending words. We also encourage the children to write their own names on their nursery creations. If you are practising name writing at home please remember that a capital letter only appears at the beginning of the word. We continue to share books daily as part of our continuous provision. We use 'book talk' (eg. author, illustrator, setting, characters and plot predictions) as a vital tool to encourage engagement and help develop early reading skills and may base our topics around certain books.

Maths

We are continuing to plug away at numbers and counting. Specifically, we are teaching the skill of accurate counting (1-1 correspondence) to 10 (and beyond), and recognising these written numbers. We will focus on how we can separate groups of objects in different ways and begin basic Maths problems. We will continue to recognise and describe shapes in the world around us and starting to using language for calculation and measure (more, less, fewer, heavy, light, full, empty etc). We apply these skills throughout the day as well as during story and circle times.

Understanding the World

As the change in seasons bring changes in the weather and effect on our natural world, we will be

Expressive Arts and Design

We love and actively encourage expressive art and design in nursery. From the role play corner, to the

'up close and personal' with the world around us and taking full advantage of our outdoor environment. We will continue to learn about different celebrations such as our own birthdays and Chinese new year as well as focussing on topics that encourage the children to find out about people and communities.

water tray and outside mud kitchen, the children are never stuck for ways in which to be imaginative. Songs and dances are still a daily part of our carpet and the children love to join in! We also like to follow the children's imagination and interests and are always keen to foster and extend these 'in the moment' where we can.

Important Information

Characteristics of Effective Learning (CofEL)

This area of the curriculum underpins everything that we (adults included) as learners, experience. It looks at the skills we use and the way that we think and learn.

The 3 main aspects are:

- *Playing and exploring – engagement*
- *Active learning – motivation*
- *Creating and thinking critically – thinking*

Library

We will continue to offer children the chance to choose a book from our library on a daily basis. All you need to do is provide your child with a Dunmore book bag and pop it into the Book Bag Box at the start of the session. When you are finished with the book and want a new one, return it in the same way. Please note that children are only allowed one book at a time and need to return this before being able to choose another.

Requests to Parents

- Please name shoes and wellies and make sure that your child can put them on by themselves. Remember mittens (no gloves) and hats in the winter months but NO scarves please as they are a health and safety risk!
- Please write your child's name clearly on the outside of their lunch box and include a drink in their lunch box. They do not need to keep a separate one in their bag. We provide them with a drink across the nursery day.
- Please sign up for parent mail if you haven't already. It's a great way of getting information from us quickly and effectively.
- If you have a skill or interest that **you** could (and would be willing to) share with us please let us know!

Key Dates

- Monday 19th February – Inset Day
- Week Commencing 12th March: Parent meetings for January Starters – a chance to chat through how your child is settling and what we've learned about them so far.

As always we thank you for your continued support

Mr Kendell, Mrs Noake, Miss Ely and the Nursery Team