

Long Mead Community Primary Foundation Unit Newsletter



6th January 2023

Dear Parents and carers

Welcome back to all of you who know us well and a very warm welcome the new families whose children have joined the Foundation Unit this term. We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas! This term our topic is 'amazing animals' and these are some of the things we will be covering this term:

Communication and Language

We will be sharing stories, encouraging the children to join in with familiar parts. The stories we will be focusing on include: Handa's surprise, Sharing shell, Walking through the jungle, Oi! Get off our train! And Giraffes can't dance. We will focus on rhythm and rhyme, listening skills and working with a talking partner. Making predictions about the stories and discussing why we have made those predictions. We will also begin Helicopter storytelling, encouraging the children to make up their own stories and as a class we will be bringing them to life by acting them out.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will focus on behaviour and self-control, getting along with others and being a good friend. This will involve learning to recognise and talk about our feelings, understanding how we can help others and understanding the importance of sharing and taking turns. This will develop into how to be a good friend. Throughout the term we will be developing the children's ability to resolve problems with some support. For our new nursery children, we will be focusing on separating from parents/carers and taking part in activity.

Physical Development

We will be learning to move in different ways, developing coordination and control. Both nursery and reception will continue to have a PE lesson on a **Monday**, reception children will need their PE kits in school and for the nursery please ensure your child is wearing sensible shoes. The children will also have the opportunity to practice balancing, moving in a range of ways and climbing during child-initiated play. We will be continuing to focus on developing the children's independence, for example getting their coats on and doing them up and putting shoes and socks on. Every morning we will be doing activities to develop fine motor control and handwriting skills.

Literacy

The children will be enjoying stories, rhymes and books to develop their literacy skills. The children in reception will be continuing daily phonics sessions. They will be learning the letter sounds and focusing on hearing and saying the sounds in words. They will be beginning to read words by sounding and blending and reading books will be sent home on a Friday, please make sure you are reading at home regularly - it makes all the difference. Phonics will be being taught in the pre-school, they will be looking at different sounds around them, including environmental and instrumental as well as body percussion. Alongside our focus story books we will be acting out stories, ordering key events and having discussions about what will happen next. Reception will begin to label pictures and write simple sentences linked to our focus stories

Mathematics

We will be focusing on reciting the numbers in order, counting accurately and recognising numerals, moving onto subitising numbers (Instantly recognising the number of objects in a small group, without counting.) and adding numbers together to make 10. We will be using the pictorial part- whole model as well as ten frames to support this. The children will be solving simple problems using measures and practising key mathematical vocabulary. Nursery will be continuing to accurately count to 10 and represent numbers with their fingers as well as other resources such as counters.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be linking our arts and design with our literacy by creating pictures and models of different animals and story settings.

In music, we will be using percussion instruments and building up a repertoire of familiar songs. The children will also be able to access the arts and crafts resources throughout the week so that they are able to create their own models and pictures to share with the class.

Understanding of the World

We will be recognising similarities and differences of people in our community as well as in other countries, this will link to our stories in particular Handa's surprise. We will also begin looking at maps and creating our own maps to get us around the school grounds. Throughout the term we will be talking about the environment and observing the changing seasons.

Forest School for **reception** will be taking place every **Monday (Miss Webster/office will be in touch regarding which group is going this term)** - please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and bring wellies in a bag.

Early Years Staff

Please note that staff are in school on the following days:

Miss Webster - Monday

Mrs Hooper - Tuesday - Friday

Nicky Wilson, Mrs Mitchell and Lois are in school all week.

Snack Time

School provides snack for all children in nursery and reception; however, we do not know in advance what the fruit will be. If you feel providing a snack for your child would be more appropriate then please make sure it is healthy (fruit, veg, breadsticks and raisins etc) NO chocolate or crisp please.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know, we are always happy to help.

Thank you for your support.

The Foundation Stage Team