

Long Mead Community Primary Foundation Unit Newsletter



February 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 lovely half term! We will be continuing our topic of '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 continuing to focus on include: Handa's surprise, Sharing shell, Walking through the jungle, Peter's pebbles, 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. We have a drama workshop booked in towards the end of the term - I look forward to seeing their wonderful acting skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will focus on knowing the difference between playing a game and hurting people, knowing that we keep our hands to ourselves and if we do need to touch our peers it is in a kind manner. 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 following the classroom rules and routines as well as making new friendships.

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. During PE they will be learning how to work as a team to play a game. 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, 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. We will be sending home a new reading book as well as a copy of the partner reading book that we have been reading in class during the week, this book will be known to your child. Phonics will be being taught daily 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 continue 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 later on (Instantly recognising the number of objects in a small group, without counting. Example: when you know there are 5 coins here without counting.) During our unit on measure we will be introducing the language; longer, shorter, taller, heavier and lighter. The children will be solving simple

problems using these measures and practising key mathematical vocabulary. We will be revisiting our number bonds to 5 and moving onto number bonds to 10, trying hard to remember them in our heads and using our prior knowledge will then help us with subtraction sums with the support of tens frames, part - whole models and numicon.

Unit 10 - Measure

Unit 11 - Number bonds to 10.

Unit 12 - Subtraction

Nursery will be practicing counting to 10 and backwards from 10 including from any given number. They will be counting out objects and items and begin to match them to a numeral.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating some of our own wonderful animals, taking the inspiration from the Story Peter's Pebble where he finds interesting pebbles and rocks and paints patterns and animals onto them, eventually they turn into a real character - I wonder if ours will too?!

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 people in our community and Miss Webster will be taking a few children to Frome Court to meet the elderly members as well as delivering a bird feeder. Throughout the term we will be talking about the environment and observing the changing seasons. We will be looking at spring flowers and talking about where we find them, what they look like and how we should look after them.

Forest School for **reception** will be taking place every **Monday (The office should have been in touch if it is your child's turn 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:

Mrs Hooper - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Miss Webster - Monday.

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.

We will also be having a visit from Animalia Encounters on **Wednesday 22nd March**. A Letter and permission slip will be sent shortly. The children will have the opportunity to hold, stroke and learn how to look after animals.

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