



Sycamore Newsletter

Spring 1

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and have found time to relax and have fun with family and friends.

PSED

This term we will be focussing on encouraging the children to interact with their peers. This will include encouraging children to play alongside each other, share resources and participate in activities that involve sharing and turn taking. We will be providing activities that will encourage the children to work cooperatively, such as using the large parachute.

We will be supporting children to follow adult direction using strategies such as motivating activities and Now and Next boards.

Mathematics

We will continue to provide daily exposure to number and opportunities to count. We will continue to introduce maths concepts such as + and—through singing simple songs and using visual resources to reinforce these themes.

There are always plenty of activities available to develop our children's problem solving skills e.g. puzzles, stacking activities, shape sorting, manoeuvring around obstacles, building etc. We will continue to challenge the children to think about how to solve problems more independently.

Communication and Language

We will continue to support children with their listening and attention skills in the environment, during group times and in 1:1 activities. During group time, we are applying the principles of Attention Autism which helps children who have communication delays to develop their communication skills. We will be extending our Attention Autism sessions this term to include 3 stages. Stage 1. Building attention. 2. Sustaining attention 3. Shifting attention when they and others are taking turns. Attention Autism involves fun, often messy, visual activities that are designed to motivate and engage children. We try to link these to topics and current themes for example, we may have snow and ice themed activities in the current wintery weather.

As singing and sharing stories together are excellent ways to develop communication and language, we will ensure that singing opportunities and access to books are provided daily.

Library We will be taking the children to our school library this half term where they will be able to look at a range of books and hopefully start to sit for short stories.

Understanding the World

There will be many seasonal changes in the environment over the next term. We will be looking at signs of winter and will see changes in the weather. We will be giving children opportunities to experience these changes in their play. E.g. splashing in puddles, exploring ice, noticing early signs that Spring will soon be coming.

Culture and celebrations

We love any opportunity to celebrate festivals and special events. This half term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Birthdays. We will try some foods linked special celebrations.

If you as a family celebrate any other events please let us know so we can celebrate too!

We love to see photographs of special celebrations so please put them onto your child's Tapestry page.



Tapestry



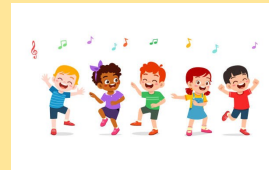
Please remember to check Tapestry regularly for important dates coming up. And don't forget to look out for your child's experiences at the end of the term when their photos and annotations go live.

Contributions: Thank you to all those families who gave their weekly £1 contribution last half term. We greatly appreciate this contribution if this is something that you can afford.

Physical Development

The children will have many opportunities in the inside and outside environment, to develop their gross motor skills. There will be opportunities to climb, jump, crawl, go up, over, through and under. We will also be using stop and go symbols within the large physical space to support their listening and attention skills. We will also provide access to toys that the children can push around such as wheel barrows and pushchairs to develop their balance, coordination and core strength.

We will be introducing music and movement this half term. We want the children to explore and enjoy a range of music and be able to move their bodies in response to the music.



Fine motor skills help children do everyday things like eating, writing and getting dressed. Developing efficiency in fine motor skills will help make such tasks easier and quicker and will help children develop their independence. Good fine motor skills also increases play options as children can use more resources independently. We will provide daily access to a range of activities that help develop these skills e.g. manipulating playdoh with hands and tools, threading, puzzles, using pegs, mark making, connecting blocks etc.

Important dates:

Friday 16th January—Evergreen cafe

Thursday 29th January—Sycamore stay and play / story session

Monday 2nd February—The Animal Man visit