

Spring 1 - 2026

Saplings Room Newsletter



Welcome back, we hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break.

This is our first newsletter of the year for saplings. *Please remember this is an overview of what we are offering to the children this half term. Some children will need to have additional support with some of the activities and others will need to be stretched further to meet individual development requirements. All staff are highly skilled in being able to meet individual children's needs.

Personal Social Emotional Development

Children will continue to be supported to build warm relationships with the staff and their peers and learn other peoples names. They will take part in a range of experiences that support their developing confidence and self-awareness.

Staff will model clear expectations and support the children to follow the routines and behavioural expectations. The staff will be acknowledging your child's feelings and nurturing them, giving them a sense of belonging in to the new group. Responding to their emotional needs is really important.

Children will begin to explore feelings, labelling how they feel using our resources as part of our smile project. They will also be introduced to our Saplings puppet.

Physical Development

We will be introducing our squiggle and dough disco programme which is all about building core strength and developing our muscles in our hands and arms. This will also be supported by our 'funky fingers' activities which we will explore daily.

Rich sensory experiences are being offered to support children's emotional development, mark making, sensory play and physical skills.

The children have been using their developing large physical skills, exploring their vestibular sense and proprioception, discovering where their bodies are in relation to gravity and the ground. This supports and encourages children's balancing skills and their co-ordination.

Communication and Language

We are really supporting children's listening and attention skills this term.

Through singing songs and rhymes we are offering a pause at the end, to support children waiting in anticipation, to see what comes next.

When exploring actions, words and sounds we are using language 'ready steady go' and 'stop', this encourages the children to attain their attention on the experience.

We continue to focus on enhancing children's language and encouraging them to use it in context with their play experiences. You can help with this by commenting, naming and describing your children's actions.



Literacy

This half term is 'Brown Bear, Brown bear'. Links to the story on line can be found on Tapestry. We will share the story in group times and be encouraging the children to actively listen, respond to adult questions, make predictions and join in with repeated phrases.

We will focus on a different core rhyme every two weeks. We will share information via Tapestry with you so that you can sing with your child at home.

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Please check your child's Tapestry account each day as this is our main source of communication with you as parents. We will share and celebrate what your children are doing at nursery, as well as inform you with newsletters and first aid forms.

We would love to see the exciting things that happen at home, so please also share with us by adding your own observations. These may be of your child celebrating a special family event such as: Birthdays, a trip to the park, baking at home or learning a new skill.

Listening and Attention Skills

We will continue to offer bucket time group sessions which helps the children to wait and watch with anticipation. The children will also be encouraged to join in with some small group sessions where they will have to wait for their turn and share the equipment (this can be a challenge for all children)

A variety of new vocabulary will be introduced as the children play and explore.

Winter

The children will be exploring the season of winter with lots of discussions and vocabulary on the weather and the clothes that we need to wear to stay warm outside. The children will have lots of opportunities to explore ice and how it feels in our hands as well as polar animals such as penguins and polar bears.



Festivals and Celebrations

We love to have any opportunity to celebrate festivals and events. This half term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Birthdays. We will explore these festivals. If you as a family celebrate any other events please let us know so we can celebrate in Acorn too!



School Fund

Please remember to bring £1 each week which goes towards school fund.

These contributions help us to do lovely extras with your child.



Routines and boundaries

Routines and boundaries are really important during the children's first days at nursery, they help them identify a routine and recognise what is coming next, offering them reassurance when it is home time.

This is a sequence of events and is closely linked to children's early mathematical development.



This story is worth a read, Please check it out on our YouTube page, it is read by Verony Elmer our Deputy Headteacher!!

We would love to hear your thoughts about the story and if it has made you think about your child's development any differently.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3zan8QfXa8>