

Learning in Nursery Autumn 1

Welcome to our wonderful new St Chad's Nursery families, and welcome back to those of you who we have the pleasure of seeing again for another academic year!

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer. We have lots of exciting things planned for this first half term.

PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING...

Personal, Social, Emotional Development: This area runs through everything we do in Nursery and plays a huge part at this time of year as the children settle in or return to nursery. They will learn rules and routines and we will talk about our school mission statement (In the light of God... we care, we share, we laugh, we learn) and what that means to us. We will support the children in making relationships and new friendships in the setting.

Communication & Language Development: Again, this runs through everything we do. Acquiring language is such an integral part of Nursery. We love learning new vocabulary, which we collect in our word jars in our carpet area. We support the children in speaking in full sentences, modelling back their words and helping them extend them. We talk about the importance of being a good listener, and what that looks like and encourage 'to and fro' conversation.

Physical Development: Physical development is vital to children's all-round development, enabling them to live happy and healthy lives. This half term has a focus on large-scale movements and developing core strength and stability using our equipment in the outdoor classroom. We will make obstacle courses, learn to balance when walking across equipment, and retrace vertical lines and make anticlockwise circles with streamers, wands and in paint and chalk. We will make lines of different types and on different surfaces and create a self-portrait.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

Literacy: We will read and share books daily, talking about what we see in the illustrations, identifying characters and talking about our favourite stories. This half term we will focus on listening, describing sounds and making sounds both indoors and outdoors, explore and describe the sounds of percussion instruments. We will introduce listening behaviour and why we need to listen, using our listening ladder to help us. We will introduce 'nest thinking' to develop oracy skills. We will sing and learn lots of songs and rhymes.

Maths... in our maths sessions we will..

- ✚ Learn counting songs to rhymes to encourage reciting of numbers in order
- ✚ Looking at images and objects and talking about what they notice.
- ✚ Introduce finding similarities and differences between objects.
- ✚ Recognise groups of 1 and 2 and 3 by sight alone (subitising)
- ✚ Recite numbers past 5.
- ✚ Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.
- ✚ Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- ✚ Show 'finger numbers' up to 5.
- ✚ Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.

Maths can be found and taught everywhere, and all these concepts will be reinforced in areas of provision.

Understanding The World... (Includes Science, History, Geography and RE)

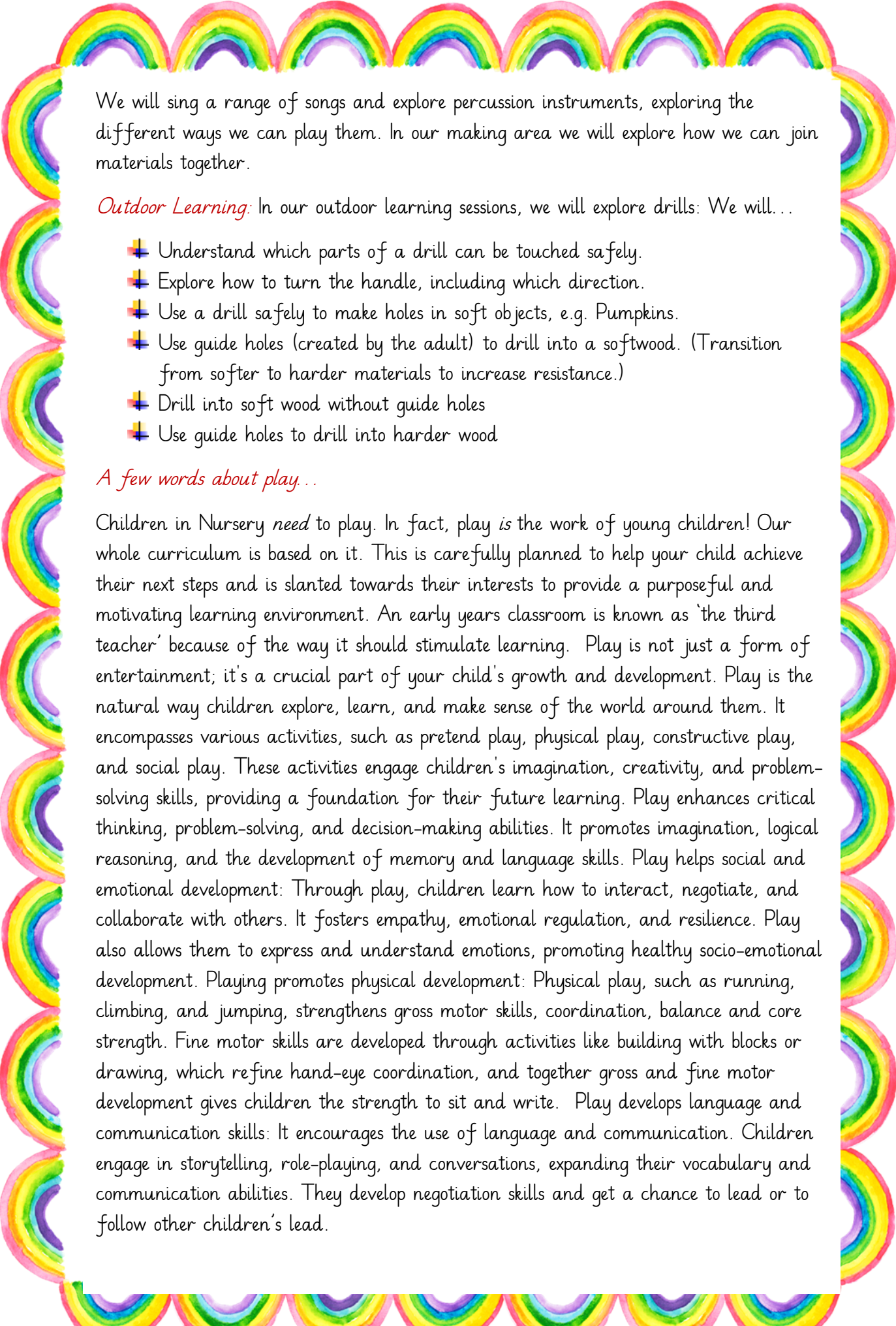
We go out in all weathers which gives children a chance to observe and experience all the different weather conditions and talk about the changes they see around them. We will have a focus on 'All about me' and talk about how they have changed over time. When creating line drawings of a self-portrait we will link to physical characteristics. We will use all our senses in the hands-on exploration of natural materials and explore collections of materials with similar and/ or different properties. We will go on scavenger hunts to find objects with particular characteristics (eg something shiny, something spiky etc) In our RE sessions we will explore our school mission statement: 'In the light of God... We care, we share. We laugh. We learn' and talk about why the word God is so important to Christians.

Expressive Arts and Design (Including Art, Design & Technology, Role Play and Music)

This half term we will start an Art project on 'Line'. We will...

- ✚ Create lines of different types and explore them, taking a line for a walk on a page like artist Paul Klee.
- ✚ Learn about contour lines and about a range of portraits.
- ✚ Create a self-portrait, looking closely at features and details on their face

In areas of provision children will get the opportunity to role play, representing their experiences and making links between them.



We will sing a range of songs and explore percussion instruments, exploring the different ways we can play them. In our making area we will explore how we can join materials together.

Outdoor Learning: In our outdoor learning sessions, we will explore drills: We will...

- ✚ Understand which parts of a drill can be touched safely.
- ✚ Explore how to turn the handle, including which direction.
- ✚ Use a drill safely to make holes in soft objects, e.g. Pumpkins.
- ✚ Use guide holes (created by the adult) to drill into a softwood. (Transition from softer to harder materials to increase resistance.)
- ✚ Drill into soft wood without guide holes
- ✚ Use guide holes to drill into harder wood

A few words about play...

Children in Nursery *need* to play. In fact, play *is* the work of young children! Our whole curriculum is based on it. This is carefully planned to help your child achieve their next steps and is slanted towards their interests to provide a purposeful and motivating learning environment. An early years classroom is known as 'the third teacher' because of the way it should stimulate learning. Play is not just a form of entertainment; it's a crucial part of your child's growth and development. Play is the natural way children explore, learn, and make sense of the world around them. It encompasses various activities, such as pretend play, physical play, constructive play, and social play. These activities engage children's imagination, creativity, and problem-solving skills, providing a foundation for their future learning. Play enhances critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities. It promotes imagination, logical reasoning, and the development of memory and language skills. Play helps social and emotional development: Through play, children learn how to interact, negotiate, and collaborate with others. It fosters empathy, emotional regulation, and resilience. Play also allows them to express and understand emotions, promoting healthy socio-emotional development. Playing promotes physical development: Physical play, such as running, climbing, and jumping, strengthens gross motor skills, coordination, balance and core strength. Fine motor skills are developed through activities like building with blocks or drawing, which refine hand-eye coordination, and together gross and fine motor development gives children the strength to sit and write. Play develops language and communication skills: It encourages the use of language and communication. Children engage in storytelling, role-playing, and conversations, expanding their vocabulary and communication abilities. They develop negotiation skills and get a chance to lead or to follow other children's lead.

A Few Important Notices for the Beginning of Term

Book Bags: Please could your child bring a book bag to school every day. This could be a school bookbag if you wish or just one from home. We will be encouraging the children to bring home a story of their choice to share with you from the Nursery library. We may also send any letters home in book bags.

Water Bottles/Snack: We would like to encourage ALL children to bring a water bottle into Nursery. They need to go home each day to be refilled with water only please. (No juice please in line with the school's healthy eating policy) The children will then have free access to their water bottles throughout the day. A fruit/vegetable snack is also available throughout the day on our snack table.

Extra Clothing: Please could you ensure that your child has a supply of extra clothes in a bag on their peg for any little 'accidents' that may occur when they are really busy in Nursery. It is amazing how often paint, mud and glue can magically get under aprons onto clothes! If your child is still in nappies or pull ups, could you please supply us with plenty of spares along with wipes and nappy sacks too. Many thanks.

Outdoor Clothing: To allow us to use the outside classroom in all weathers please could your child have a pair of wellingtons (named please) that we keep in school. There is a lot of learning to experience outside in the rain, wind and snow! Our wonderful PTA have very kindly provided every child in the Foundation Stage with an all-in-one waterproof suit so we do not need these. Please ensure your child comes to school in a coat every day as we all know our weather can change quickly... even in one day!

Nursery Fund: To enable us to purchase ingredients for baking and offer regular enhancements to the curriculum we ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per family per week. If you would like to contribute, could you please send £4.00 for this half term or 50p weekly, into school in a named envelope as soon as you are able. Alternatively, if you prefer to pay for the whole year, it is £20. Can I please emphasise this is a *purely voluntary* contribution only.

Key Workers: We will be getting in touch again soon to allocate your child to a key worker group. Each key worker group will have one of the adults in Nursery attached to it. We will split into our key worker groups sometimes during the week to share stories and news and it is a lovely way for each child to have one 'special person' in Nursery if they would like a chat or help with something. You will receive observations on Tapestry from all adults in Nursery and all members of the Nursery team will get to know your child and work on their next steps of learning.

Meet The Nursery Team

Who's who and when they are in Nursery!

Mrs McMaster... Early Years Foundation Stage Leader/ Nursery Manager. *Covers Mrs Lee's PPA on a Wednesday morning.*



Miss Blakeney (formerly Mrs Lee until the other one came along!!) ... Nursery Teacher on *Mondays and Tuesday*

ALSO... Teaching Assistant on *Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday* and in Nursery all week (So good we never let her out!)



Mrs Lee... Nursery Teacher on *Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.*



Miss Duly... Teaching Assistant on a *Monday and Tuesday*



Finally... We are very keen to work in partnership with you. You are the expert on your child, so it is really important to us that we work together. We will be adding all parents to the Tapestry Learning Journey so we would love it if you could add any observations, photos or videos of any achievements or special times you have with your child at home, so we get a picture of the whole child. We love to look at these together at carpet times and it can be a powerful way of developing speaking skills as the children share their experiences from home. (Also, we really love to see them too!) If you would like to speak to us about your child, we will always try to make the time to talk to you, usually after school is the best time. Please make sure we are fully informed about any allergies, illness or anything at all that may affect your child.

We very much look forward to working with you and welcoming your whole family to our Nursery family! For those with us last year, we are thrilled to have you in our nursery family again!

