

Curriculum Overview: Year R – Term 1

THEME FOR THE TERM: Who am I?

This term we're focusing on:

- Getting to know our new classroom, routines and adults
- Building friendships and feeling part of our new class
- Growing in confidence and independence as we start school
- Understanding what it means to belong to our school community



COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Building our listening, attention and speaking skills:

- Listening attentively to stories and responding with relevant questions and comments
- Recalling the names of main characters and key events from stories
- Speaking in full sentences about our own experiences
- Using past, present and future tense, with modelling and support



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing pencil control and fine motor strength in preparation for writing:

- Drawing vertical and horizontal lines and circles (clockwise and anticlockwise)
- Adjusting pressure and lifting and repositioning tools with control
- Moving tools left to right, top to bottom, and in circular motions
- Copying and repeating simple marks with increasing consistency
- Building hand strength through playdough, threading, pegs and tweezers



PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building confidence, friendships and emotional understanding:

- Naming our feelings and understanding that we are similar and different
- Understanding why it's important to be kind and use gentle hands
- Working and playing cooperatively, and taking turns with others
- Learning our class rules and understanding rights and responsibilities
- Forming positive attachments and friendships with our classmates



LITERACY

Developing a love of stories, and our first steps into writing:

- Listening to stories and recalling key characters and events
- Joining in with repeated phrases at the right moment
- Using story dough to represent characters, settings and events
- Making intentional marks and talking about what they represent
- Beginning to connect our own mark-making with storytelling



MATHEMATICS

- Subitising within 3 (this means knowing how many objects there are without having to count them)
- Exploring how all numbers are made of ones
- Focusing on the composition of 3 and 4 using practical objects and stem sentences e.g. 4 is made of 3 and 1, 3 and 1 make 4.
- Subitising objects and sounds
- Matching, sorting and comparing
- Focusing on counting skills to 10 and beyond



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Learning about ourselves, our beliefs, and our wider community:

- Talking about who and what is special to us
- Exploring different beliefs, including those of children in our class
- Noticing similarities and differences between our own and others' beliefs
- Understanding why it's important to respect others' beliefs and ideas
- Talking about people who help us, in school and the wider community



EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Exploring creativity through art, music and imaginative play:

- Investigating marks and patterns made with different materials and textures
- Exploring mark-making with crayons, felt tips, chalks and pencils
- Creating a self-portrait, using a mirror to observe our features
- Talking about our artwork and what we feel we did well
- Singing nursery rhymes and exploring sounds with our voices and bodies