



Early Years  
Foxyards Primary School  
Curriculum newsletter  
Autumn Term 2018

At Foxyards we:  
Respect everybody and our environment.  
Aim high in everything we do.

Owls  
Mrs Billington  
Phase leader

Robins  
Miss Peach

Support Staff  
Mrs Cartwright  
Miss Kirkpatrick  
Mrs Wall

Nursery  
Mrs Smith  
Mrs Hannon

Support Staff  
Miss Webb  
Mrs Seymour

Welcome back to all of our children who were with us last year and a big hello to all our new children who are joining our Nursery and Reception this term. We hope you, and your families, will all share lots of happy times with us this year. Our Reception children all started really well last week and they all look very grown up; I am sure they have all grown over the summer holidays. Our topic this term is 'This Is Me!' in Reception and we will be celebrating the similarities and differences between us all in school and in our society. Nursery will follow the children's interests but will be having a focus on colour and celebrations.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional

This term we will be making new friends and learning the routines and rules of our new environment which will prepare us for life in modern Britain. It is a very big term for some of us who have never been left with unfamiliar faces so please be patient with us.

In **Nursery** we will be learning to share and play with each other, which can be very difficult when you are only 3, and will be talking about our feelings such as what makes us happy or sad.

In **Reception** we will be thinking about our behaviour in school and about our feelings, especially what to do when we are feeling sad or angry. We will have lots of opportunities to explore and learn with our friends and to develop our skills as independent learners.

#### Communication and Language

This term we will be having lots of opportunities to listen to well known stories and rhymes and to talk in small groups about ourselves and our families and friends. We are part of the Primary Writing Project so our children will be learning stories alongside actions and pictures.

In **Nursery** our main focus will be to develop and extend our words and to share our ideas using longer sentences. We will also be listening to each other in small groups and following simple instructions.

In **Reception** we will be asking and answering a range of questions all based on our topic 'This Is Me' such as who, where, how and why so please don't be surprised if we come home asking you lots of random questions. We will be listening carefully to each other during circle time and talking about what we have heard. We will also be trying hard to follow a set of instructions.

#### Physical Development

This term we will be working on our gross motor and fine motor skills and learning how to look after ourselves and our bodies in today's society.

In **Nursery** we will be encouraging big movements which are vital to the development of pencil control. There will be lots of physical play and lots of big drawing and painting.

In **Reception** we will be meeting Brave monkey and Scared monkey who will help us learn our letter formation. During PE we will be focusing on gymnastics and throwing and catching.

In **Nursery** and **Reception** we will be encouraging the children to become more independent when using the toilets and basins and, in Reception, when getting themselves changed.

PE days will be Monday and Thursday for our Reception children and Tuesday for our Nursery children.

Reception children need a PE kit left in school  
Nursery children can come to school in their own clothes on PE day

### Literacy

This term we will be developing our early phonics, reading and writing.

In **Reception** we will have Phonics and Literacy sessions everyday. We will be working on our phase 2 sounds and on blending sounds together to read and write simple words. We will be writing lots of sounds and making marks which we will tell our teachers and friends about and we will be having a go at writing words, lists and simple captions. We will work in small groups to share reading books and will talk about what we see and what we read. When we are ready lots of our books will have simple words which we will be able to read without any help - We are going to amaze you this term with our reading and writing!

In **Nursery** we will be developing our listening skills by listening to stories and to sounds in the environment. We will be making lots of marks when we draw and paint and will talk about the different marks we make and see in our environment.

Please help your child by encouraging them to notice sounds and words around them, sharing stories with each other and encouraging them to make marks and 'write'. Remember to celebrate everything they do!

### Mathematics

This term we will be developing our knowledge of number and shapes through lots of practical activities.

In **Reception** we will be having Mathematics in groups every morning. We will be focusing on counting out and touch counting up to 20 objects and beyond and will move onto adding groups together and then taking away. We will be learning to recognise and write numbers up to 20. As well as numbers we will be naming and describing 2D shapes and making patterns using colours and shapes. There will be lots of opportunity for us to explore capacity in our sand and water tray and lots of talking about the size and weight of different objects. Later in the term we will be thinking about different times of the day.

In **Nursery** we will be focusing on numbers up to 10 and will do lots of touch counting and counting out. We will sing and act out a variety of number rhymes focusing on one more and one less and will sort objects into sets. There will be opportunities in Nursery to talk about the shapes we can see when we are building and to make pictures with shapes and objects. We will also be looking at different patterns in our environment.

Please help your child by talking about numbers and shapes in your environment, encouraging your child to count objects or to give you a certain amount and by using lots of mathematic words to describe what you can see.

### Understanding the World

This term we will be learning all about ourselves. In Reception we will be finding out about what we look like, who we live with and where we live, we will be investigating using our senses and talking about how we change as we grow.

We will be thinking about what we would like to be when we grow up and what it was like to be a child in the past. During the term we will be broadening the children's understanding of modern Britain by exploring different celebrations and by having 'Black History' and 'Anti Bullying' weeks.

In Nursery and Reception the children will have opportunities to use programmable toys, computers and the smart boards in our classrooms. We will be learning about lots of different festivals and celebrations including Harvest, Diwali and Christmas. The children at Foxyards are very lucky to have a forest area which we are able to use weekly. This term we will be focusing on seasonal changes as we move into Autumn and then Winter. We will also be thinking about the animals we find in our forests and we will be talking about animals that hibernate during the winter and feeding our birds during the colder months. Our Nursery children will be going to the forest every Friday and our Reception children will be going every Wednesday. A letter was sent last week with what the children need to wear and bring on their Forest day. Please ask a member of staff if you are unsure.

### Expressive Art and Design

This term we will be representing ourselves, our families and pets, our homes and our interests in a range of creative, and often messy, ways. We will paint pictures, sometimes with paintbrushes but sometimes with our hands and fingers, and will experiment by mixing colours together. We will draw with crayons, chalks, pastels, pens and pencils and explore what happens when we draw on different materials. We will be model making using clay and play dough and will be making pictures using lots of different materials which will help us talk about how things feel.

There will be lots of opportunities for us to sing songs and explore the sounds of different instruments and our role play areas are home corners so we can share our experiences from home.