Jeffers and Donaldson

EYFS: Autumn Term 1

All About Me

We welcome all the children into school on a staggered start in small groups building up to larger numbers. It's really important to get this transition just right for every child. We take time to plan settling in activities and encourage Making friendships. Children talk about experiences that are familiar to them and what their passions, goals and dreams are. It is important to get to know the children and their interests so we can plan in activities to capture their interests. All about me is our first topic where the children share facts about themselves.

Communication and Language

As the children start school they will be joining in with rhymes and stories with repeated patterns. There will be plenty of print in the environment for the children to become familiar with. They will begin to understand the five key concepts of print:

- print has meaning
- print can have different purposes
- we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- the names of the different parts of a book

The children will be encouraged to engage in extended conversations about stories and learning new vocabulary.

Literacy

We will follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme from Week 2, which will introduce a new phoneme each day. These sessions will be supported with Guided Reading 3 times per week in school and a picture book, followed by a decodable book to share at home. Reading is a key area and we encourage the children to enjoy books and share lots of stories both at home and at school. We aim to foster a life-long love of learning through Reading for Pleasure.

Mathematical Development

As we get to know the children there will be opportunities to find Maths in the learning environment. There will be key times of the day for number time and learning routines will be a focus. There will be lots of fun ways to learn such as singing counting songs and playing counting games. The children will start to match and sort objects, comparing amounts. This will go along side comparing size, mass and capacity. There will be lots of opportunity to explore pattern by spotting it in the environment, carrying on a pattern and becoming independent in 2 and 3 way patterns.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be encouraged to join in with songs and learn familiar lyrics. They will sing call-and-response songs to help commit new learning to their memories. They will also have the opportunity to begin mixing colours, join in with role play games and use resources available for props. In the construction area the children will build models using construction equipment. One of the first activities the children do is a self-portrait looking closely at their hair and eye colour. Junk modelling is always a popular activity which encourages their imagination and creativity.
In music we will be exploring sounds and how they can be changed, also tapping out of simple rhythms.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will start by thinking about 'Being me in my world'.
The children will be encouraged to think about how it feels to belong and that we are similar but different. We will talk about recognising our feelings and trying to manage them. A lot of emphasis will be put on using kind words and working as a team. Each of the children will be encouraged to see themselves as a valuable individual and a member of our class. Together we formulate a set of class rules as we start to become familiar with school routines.

Understanding the World

We begin by thinking about our own family. We ask to bring in some photographs so they can comment on their family; naming who they can see and of what relation they are to them. Discussions will be encouraged about what they do with their family and places they have been.
Can they draw similarities and make comparisons between other families?
We read fictional stories about families and start to tell the difference between real and fiction.
The children will start to feel more familiar with the EYFS area and navigate around our classroom and outdoor areas.
We talk about birthday celebrations and what memories they have of their own birthdays and others in their family.

Physical Development

Fine Motor Activities
Throughout the year, children will constantly be involved in activities using their fine motor skills. They will start to hold a pencil to mark make and use the pencil grip. Plenty of other activities such as using a paintbrush, a pair of scissors and tweezers all work together to develop fine motor skills.

Gross Motor Activities
The children will be encouraged to use the outdoor area which is great for improving their gross motor skills. Activities such as using paint brushes and chalks encourage large scale mark making. Different ways of moving will be explored with the children, along side parachute games and climbing on our outdoor equipment. Regular reminders about thorough handwashing and toileting will be made throughout this term.

Forest School

Forest School will soon be starting!

We are very fortunate to have our very own Forest School site where we will have weekly session of up to 2 hours. Forest School fits really well into the EYFS Curriculum, including physical development, understanding of the world and much more. Forest School also plays a huge part in building resilience and trying new things. We can't wait to get started!