

Topic overview: All About Me!

Overview This half term the children will begin a topic called 'All About Me!' They will talk about their families, their lives and routines at home. They will discuss who is in their family and the roles they have both at home and in the wider community/world. They will learn about the human life cycle, thinking about their own personal time line, looking at pictures of themselves as babies, toddlers, nursery children and then reception children. They will learn about the parts of their bodies, how they grow and change, have five senses and need to keep healthy through having good sleep, exercise and a balanced diet. They will begin to settle into school, learn the rules, routines of the day and make lots of new friends.

Learning Intentions (We are learning to...)

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.

Overarching principles Four guiding principles should shape practice in early years settings. These are:

- every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- children learn and develop well in **enabling environments** with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates.

The EYFS curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning. There are three prime areas and four specific. The three prime areas are Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. The specific areas are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. At Mary Dean's CE Primary Academy the children will have the opportunity to learn through adult led teaching, group work, one to one coaching and through the continuous play based learning provision.

Literacy

The Children will have a daily phonics session taught through the Little Wandle phonics programme. They will learn a new sound each day with a review lesson every Friday. They learn to name sounds and how to write them. They will also have three reading sessions per week, starting with wordless books. In these first pre-reading sessions they will learn about the terms front cover, back cover, blurb, author, illustrator, title page, text, picture and how to turn pages and look at items in the picture. They will take part in discussion about the books.

The children's literacy will be developed through 'Drawing Club' developed by Early Years expert Greg Bottrill. The children have a new book or story focus each week. They learn vocabulary related to the book through image and action. They use their imaginations to 'story dream' ideas for what could happen to the characters, settings and events of the stories. This half term they will look at the following stories and animations.

Not Now Bernard

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

The Trapdoor

The Hairy Toe

Jack and the Beanstalk

In addition the children will develop their communication and language (oracy) skills through taking part in story, rhyme and song sessions. They will use Helicopter Stories which promotes story-telling and acting. They will use story sacks, engage in role-play, use vocab mats, use Colourful Semantics resources and enjoy sentence creation activities using a picture stimulus.



Mathematics

The children's learning in maths will follow the White Rose programme for mathematics. This is a previously used scheme that we now use in line with the rest of the school. This half term, the children will deepen their understanding of **sorting and matching** through hands-on exploration of a wide range of everyday and natural objects. They will be encouraged to look more closely at attributes such as **colour, shape, size, texture, material, and purpose** in order to group items in different ways. They will learn to talk about measures and patterns by comparing size, mass, capacity and simple patterns.

The children will also begin to make early **comparisons in measurement**, developing their understanding of size, mass, capacity, length and height. Through playful and practical experiences, the children will learn to observe and compare measures as well as exploring simple repeating patterns.

Topic Sessions Understanding the World

The children will begin to understand their place in the world through looking at their family and their community. They will look at the roles people have at home and at work. The children will develop their understanding of time by looking at their own personal history, ordering photos of themselves from baby, to toddler, to pre-school, to reception class. They will observe how they have grown and changed over time and discuss what they were able to do at each stage of their development eg crawl, drink milk, eat soft food. They will learn about parts of their bodies, the five senses and how to stay healthy through having good sleep, a balanced diet and lots of exercise.

Religious Education:

The children will follow the Plymouth Local Authority agreed syllabus for RE. This half term the children will start a unit about belonging to groups and how for some people this may be the Christian faith. They will look at and discuss pictures of Christenings and what this means.

Physical Development

The children will work on their physical development by taking part in gross and fine motor control activities such as using the outdoor bikes and trikes, the obstacle course, threading, using tweezers, screwing and unscrewing nuts and bolts, using chinks and paint brushes and placing marbles on golf tees.

They will continue to develop their ability to manage their own personal hygiene and think about healthy choices for food, exercise and sleep.

The PE sessions this half term will focus on gymnastics, where they will learn to make the basic gymnastic shapes eg straight and star and look at different ways of travelling eg skipping, galloping and hopping.

Expressive Arts and Design

Music: The children will start to learn some new songs and rhymes. They will learn about repeating patterns in music, repeating patterns in rhythms and repeating patterns using words.

In creative work they will make observations of their own faces and explore paint to mix and match appropriate colours. They will think about the shapes of the different parts of their face and use line to draw them.

Reward Systems

In foundation children learn about behaviour through creating their class rules, through class discussion and adult modelling. They use the class rules to discuss what the expected behaviour should look like. When they are successful in their behaviour, learning, manners or in their friendships, they may move their photo/name along the class reward chart or receive Dojos on our class dojo house point page. A certificate is given to any child/children who gain the most Dojo house points by the end of the week. Children can also move back along the chart if they make a wrong choice. Children who make a wrong choice are given the opportunity for reparation after discussion with the teacher about what went wrong etc. leading to a letter home to parents for more disruptive behaviour. Each week a child is chosen to receive a Head Teacher Achiever of the Week certificate. Please see our whole school behaviour policy for further details.