

# Foundation Stage Unit

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Autumn Term

We began the term by getting to know each other and learning about how special and unique we all are - recognising and appreciating all of our similarities and differences. We have also been establishing our daily routines and talking about some of the feelings and emotions we might have when starting something new or having change in our lives.

#### Understanding of the World



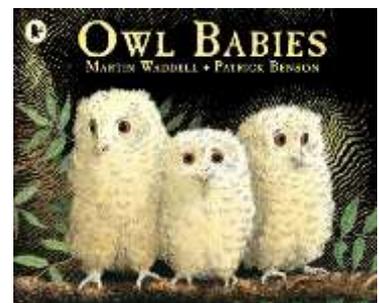
The topic for our curriculum studies this half term is 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?' which we have now started to fully immerse ourselves in. We will learn about seasonal changes in the natural world and investigate and explore woodland animals, hibernation and migration, harvest and Autumn foods.



#### Literacy

This term we shall be reading lots of books linked to our topic - some of which are listed below.

- *The Gruffalo - Julia Donaldson*
- *Stickman - Julia Donaldson*
- *Hibernation Station - Michelle Meadows*
- *Tidy - Emily Gravett*
- *Owl Babies - Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson*
- *Squirrel's busy day - Lucy Barnard*
- *Busy Little Squirrel - Nancy Tafuri*



The children will explore the books and stories through activities which will include acting out the stories, art and design, retelling and sequencing events in the stories.

The children will take part in Phonics sessions daily. The Pre-School children will focus on one sound each week, while reception children will learn a new sound most days - we will be learning to say and write sounds and we will begin using these sounds to read and write words.

## Mathematics



Our focused activities will be centred around The Number Zoo characters 0-10 and BBC Numberblocks.

We will be playing lots of games and enjoying practical activities inside and out which will involve counting, recognising numbers and increasing our knowledge, understanding and confidence with these numbers. The children will also be provided with a range of maths opportunities to explore during their independent learning time.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout the term the children will experience a range of different expressive art and design activities linked to our topic work. We will use a range of natural resources to make woodland animals and will observe and explore the Autumn colours around us. We will use Autumn produce to cook vegetable soup and apple crumble.

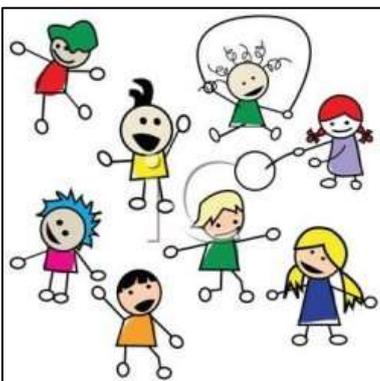
## Communication and Language

We have enjoyed hearing the children talk about their homes and families as well as things they have done while they have been at home in recent months. We will help them to build upon their communication skills throughout the term as we generate thoughts and ideas. The older children will be encouraged to use descriptive vocabulary, to ask and answer appropriate questions and to follow instructions. We will be playing lots of listening game as well singing songs and rhymes.



## Physical Development

The children will do physical activities in class every day - experimenting with different movements and balances. Our Reception children will develop their physical skills further in PE every Friday afternoon. We will also be discussing ways in which we can make sure we look after ourselves and keep ourselves and each other safe as well as the importance of hygiene.



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



The children will be encouraged to talk about what they are good at and why themselves, their families and homes are all special and unique. We will talk about the range of feelings and emotions we experience and how we can use our understanding of these emotions to help us ensure that we are being respectful to others. We will learn how best we can resolve disagreements with others in an appropriate way. The children will learn about why we have rules at school and how they can look after themselves and others as well as our toys, games and classroom resources.

Our School value this half term is 'Thankfulness' so we will be thinking about what this means to us and we will find out about how Christians celebrate Harvest in The Autumn.

### How can you help at home?

- Read a bedtime story with your child and encourage them to join in.
- Ask your children what they have been learning that day/week and ask them questions to support and extend their learning.
- Share and contribute to your child's Learning Journal online via Tapestry.
- If your child is in Reception they will be taught to form letters by starting and finishing in the right place - encourage your child to write their name and practise early writing whenever they can. For example, practising their sounds, writing a shopping list, labels, or a letter to someone special to them.
- Provide practical situations where your child can recognise and name shapes and numbers.
- And remember talk is fundamental to your child's learning.

Thank you for your support!