

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will continue to take part in circle games to develop turn taking, concentration and listening skills. The children enjoyed learning the circle game, 'Don't wake the monkey' last term and this term will be learning a new game of 'Act the emotion' to develop understanding of theirs and other emotions as well as name them.

Our thoughtful Nursery Inventors will also be thinking about similarities and differences between themselves and their friends and characters in books, especially our stories and poems about aliens! This theme links in with our whole school theme, 'Change the World'

**How you can help:** play games with your child that require turn taking. Praise your child when they share their things or show good turn taking.

### Understanding the World

The children will learn a song about the planets in our solar system and talk about what job an astronaut does. The children have especially enjoyed listening to 'The Planets' by the English composer Gustav Holst.

They will invent their own fantasy aliens and talk about how their aliens might be similar or different from the other aliens made by their friends.

**How you can help:** You could show your child how to make a papier-mache planet or help them design and make their own alien.

2023 is the year of the Rabbit. We will be learning about the New Lunar Year and how Chinese celebrate this. We will be having a Chinese New Year celebration day on 18<sup>th</sup> January. The children will be taking part in dance, art and tasting authentic Chinese food.

**How you can help:** visit China Town in Liverpool during the Chinese New Year Celebrations. It's a great day out! The main event takes place on Sunday 22 January from 11:00am until 5:00pm, with a grand finale courtesy of 'Bring The Fire' and their stunning fire show. Don't forget to upload your videos and photos on Tapestry!

### Expressive arts and design

The children will be planning, designing and making their own spaceships from boxes and decide what things they will need to take with them on their trip to outer space...

**How you can help:** Please send in any boxes, especially unusual shaped boxes.

The children will also be exploring sounds from simple instruments, learning the names of them and learning to play the game 'Pass the Rhythm'.

They will also be listening and dancing to Chinese music and dancing an Asian ribbon dance '

## Characteristics of effective teaching and learning.

Continue to introduce our animal characters (Famous Five), to help children understand how they are feeling and how they learn.

E.g. we will be helping children with self-regulation skills to bounce back after difficulties by comparing them to one of our toy characters E.g. You are just like Resilient Ren because you keep on trying and don't give up!

### Communication and language

The children will be listening to the story 'Whatever Next' and will discuss what they think they would need to take on a journey to outer space. Click on the link below to listen to the story.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=whatever+next+story+youtube&rlz=1>

**How you can help:** Please model/encourage your child to use words like "first", "next" and "then" when they are telling a simple story or telling others about something they have done.

e.g. "First, I will make a rocket, Next, I will pack a bag to take with me, then I will zoom to the moon and eat my picnic.

Finally, I will zoom all the way home!" You can model the language by thinking out loud as you plan your journey.

### Nursery Inventors Spring 1

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas.

Firstly, Mrs McCombs and I would like to say a big thank you for all the Christmas wishes and thoughtful, generous gifts we received from our children and their families.

Our theme for this half term is '**Change The World**' and our focus will be developing positive attitudes about the differences between people, cultures and communities. We will be encouraging the children to talk about the differences they notice between people, whilst also drawing their attention to similarities between different families and communities, using books, songs and rhymes. Our focus book is: Alien Tea from Planet Zum Zee by Tony Mitten. Please remember to check Tapestry every week, to see what the children have been up to and so you don't miss any important messages from myself.

## Literacy

Our focus books this term are, 'It Was a Cold, Dark Night' – Tim Hopgood and 'Whatever Next?' – Jill Murphy.

We will continue to help the children to notice print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo. Staff will model when reading that we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom by pointing to the words as they read. We will be teaching the children names of the different parts of a book, front cover, spine, blurb, title, author and illustrator.

We will continue to help the children with their assisted blending of words by playing short games every day with our puppet, Fred the Frog.

The children will be encouraged to take part in games, rhymes, songs and other activities that encourage them to hear and identify rhyming words and initial sounds in words.

Through stories, songs, rhymes and purposeful play, staff will help children to extend their vocabulary by explaining unfamiliar words and concepts.

**How you can help:** Read a bedtime story to them every night. Talk about the pictures and make links with what the characters are doing in the book to things they do. Talk about how the characters are feeling and why they might be feeling that way. Again, link it to experiences they may have had. This will help them develop empathy and increase their vocabulary and understanding, thus helping prepare them for when they start Reception. You could borrow a book from our class library, and don't forget our share a book morning every Wednesday from 8:45am to 9:05am.

## Mathematics

Our focus number will be Number four. We will be asking the children to go on treasure hunts to find four things. Then we sort and order the objects according to colour, size, weight, length etc. We will be counting things we see in stories and every day activities. We count every day from 0 to 10 and beyond. We play the floor is Lava song and count back from 5.

The children also learn songs and action rhymes to help them remember how to count in sequence, learn the names of shapes and read and form the numbers.

Our focus story is: Pete and his Four Groovy Buttons.

We will be learning about shapes that have 4 sides, counting pennies up to four, making aliens with four eyes, arms, legs etc.

**How can you help?** When you are out and about, see who can spot the number four, e.g. door numbers, signs etc. Challenge your child to find four leaves and put them in order of size or three sticks and put in order of length.

See link below for Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP1eyCmaxNA>

## Physical Development

**PE: Monday and Tuesday 9:55am. Thursday 1:20pm**

We will continue to teach the children to safely move equipment e.g. large blocks when building and develop their confidence and agility using the small climbing frame.

**How you can help:** Help continue to develop their independence and encourage your child by scaffolding e.g., they pull up their zip after you have started it off. Gradually reduce help until the children can do each step on their own. We say "Three before me?" before we help them, i.e. **talking** them through putting on shoes and socks on or peeling their fruit at snack time.

## Come and See

**Celebration:** Discover what a celebration is and how people celebrate. Why is celebrating important? What is good about celebrating together?

**How you can help:** Talk to your child about the different celebrations you have as a family.