

Autumn 1 Curriculum Overview



	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Weekly Story Sessions	INSET	Settling In stories	Goat goes to Nursery	Lima's Red Hot Chilli Pepper	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Little Red Riding Hood	The Gingerbread Man	Llama Llama Red Pyjama/ Diwali

Learning Interests Led by the Children:

- making marks
- construction
- imaginative play
- apple exploration
- rolling investigations
- mud kitchen
- mixing ingredients
- insect observations

Adult-Directed Learning:

- Snuggle Time
- Magic Maths
- Making Marks
- Phonics
- daily name finding challenge

Special Events:

- *MacMillan Coffee morning
- *Diwali Celebration

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Learning Focuses:

- Literacy
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World

Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Keep on trying when things are difficult.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Concentrate on achieving something which is important to them..
- Playing and exploring: Make independent choices.



This half term the children showed an interest in mark-making tools. At the start of the half term some children were unsure what chalk is called and used, so staff helped children to access the chalk by demonstrating how it is used. The staff supported children with making links to the writing patterns they have been learning during group time and trying to replicate these with marks on the ground. Some children extended this further by making marks to represent people. The adults enhanced this learning by supporting children with step by step scaffolding of how to draw figures. In the malleable area these skills were later transferred and writing patterns were again practiced and encouraged. Children are starting to show a new understanding of the range of marks that can be made. Later on in the half term children were fascinated by the huge pumpkin that was set out with the autumnal natural objects. Some children showed interest in trying to represent the pumpkin on paper. The staff modelled the steps to draw a simple image of a pumpkin using the writing patterns.

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Learning Focuses:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World
- Mathematics

Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Begin to correct their mistakes themselves.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Make more links between those ideas.
- Playing and exploring: Bring their own interests and fascinations to early years settings.



During this half term the children have shown an increasing fascination in construction play and have taken this to different areas of learning. The children have learned how to extend obstacle courses in the garden, learning how to create steps and bridges with crates and planks. Indoors there has been a fascination around bridges and the different types of structures they hold. This started with one child singing the song London Bridge which spurred others on to building the bridge. Adults developed their understanding by showing them images of London Bridge and demonstrated observing different parts and finding blocks that can represent it. This, overtime, progressed to observing a range of different bridges and trying to create them. Balancing became involved when some children took the opportunity to extend the length of the bridge and walk across it. This was accomplished with teamwork, perseverance, resilience and determination!

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Learning Focuses:

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- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Literacy

Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Show goal directed behaviour.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Take part in simple pretend play.
- Playing and exploring: Guide their own thinking and actions by referring to visual aids.



We have shown a lot of early interest in simple role-playing. Some of the children have been exploring the hair tools and following a simple sequence of taking it in turns to have our hair styled by a friend and learning how to use the tools on a friend gently. This extended further overtime to adding hair accessories and the children began to develop their fine motor skills when adding pipe cleaners to the mannequin's hair to make it rainbow coloured. A few of the children have been developing simple sequences in the home corner by making dinner using the dough and, with adult's modelling, feeding it to the dolls. This has also extended to dressing and changing the dolls.

In addition to this, after listening to stories this half term, some of us have been working on retelling them in their simplest form. We have particularly enjoyed retelling Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

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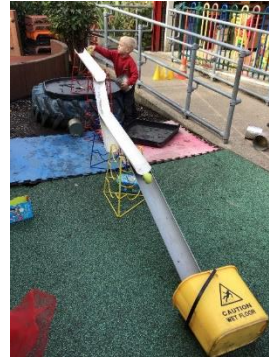
-rolling investigations

Learning Focuses:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World
- Mathematics

Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Begin to predict sequences.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Solve real problems.
- Playing and exploring: realising their actions have an effect on the world so want to keep repeating them.



We have noticed the changes to the apple tree now it is autumn and the children have enjoyed and showed fascination in collecting the apples, making observations and carrying out investigations for how they can be used. The children have explored how they can be chopped by using them in the mud kitchen and developing their skills with the one-handed tools to chop and peel. Some have explored how the apples can be collected in different containers and used their counting skills to count them as they do. Others have enjoyed problem-solving with rolling them down different paths made of pipes, at different heights, and on up and down trajectories. This shortly got extended to trying to create tunnels for the apples to roll through using the rainbow scarves and pegs. The rolling investigation became a huge interest and further learning opportunities opened up!

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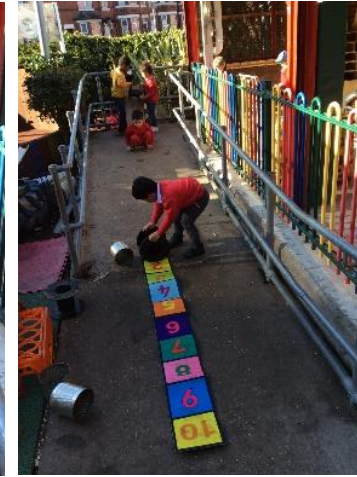
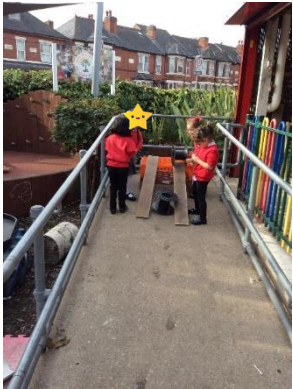
-insect observations

Learning Focuses:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World
- Mathematics

Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Show goal directed behaviour.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Know more so feel confident about achieving their own ideas.
- Playing and exploring: realise their actions have an effect on the world.



As stated before, the investigation in to the use of apples led the children down a new and exciting path...rolling! They became intrigued with the different ways objects could be rolled and the impact the items would have once rolled. Through adult's scaffolding and support the children began to recognise that they could set up objects for cause and effect investigations. Some stacked tins to knock down with tyres that built up their core strength when rolling them down the ramp, whereas others investigated with cars down pipes to see if they would travel.

Later on in the investigation the teachers introduced a number line to the rolling play. This lead to interest in numbers, which numbers they could count on and moving across the number line by jumping forwards and backwards. Children began to develop their rote counting skills as well as the ability to identify numerals.

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Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Keep on trying when things are difficult.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Solve real problems.
- Playing and exploring: Respond to new experiences that you bring to their attention.



For a lot of our children this is the first half term at our nursery and becoming familiar with the different activities and learning areas available is always a focus in Autumn 1. Adults have aimed to support the children with their early interest in accessing the mud kitchen. They have been introduced to using child-safe knives and developing their fine motor skills when using them to chop. Staff have begun to teach the children the names of some of the new vegetables that they are being introduced to such as mushrooms, celery, courgette and encouraging discussion about their appearance and how to best chop them. A simple sequence for role-play cooking soup has also been introduced with the suggestion of seeking out water to add. The children have repeatedly accessed this area showing interest in refining their control over the tools.

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- Literacy
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Characteristics of Learning:

- Active Learning: Show goal directed behaviour.
- Creating and Thinking Critically: Review their progress as they try to achieve a goal.
- Playing and exploring: Bring their own interests and fascinations into the early years setting.



It started with a few children needing guidance with how to use the water for the painting easels but led to a huge exploration of mixing ingredients. The children were interested in the left over coloured water from painting and began to explore it referring to it as 'slime'. With adult teaching and support, the children were provided learning opportunities which allowed them to investigate the texture of individual ingredients such as mashed potato, flour, and cornflour. At first the children were mostly focussed on mixing and the motion of using tools to stir. With adult interaction the children began to show early signs of make writing patterns in the mixture using brushes.

More interest came from the idea of making slime so by the end of the half term, teachers' introduced to the children the concept of mixing ingredients together to create slime. Awe and wonder was visible in the children's reactions and this will continue through next half term.

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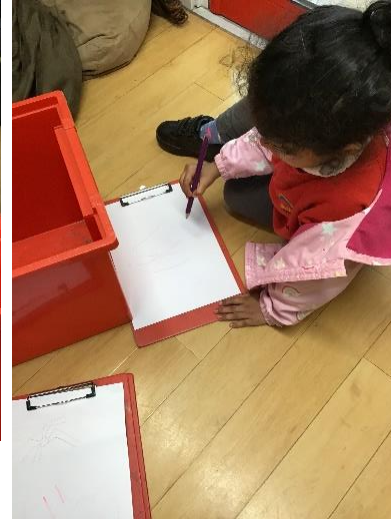
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A short interest occurred near the end of the half term when children began to notice spiders, worms and snails lurking indoors and outside. Children began to make observations of their appearance using the magnifying glasses while teachers introduced songs to help them develop language and understanding. Together we sung Incy Wincy and Wiggly Woo. After some observations were made there were opportunities to make marks that represent the creatures that were discovered. Teachers modelled the simple drawing of the insects and encouraged the children to have a go too.



MacMillan Coffee Morning





Diwali

