

# This is me!



## Class R Autumn 2020

# Nursery Rhymes



Welcome to a new school year in Class R. We hope that the children will be very happy and enjoy their time with us. The children are settling well into the routine and explored many of the resources activities available in the class. The children are settling in well, following the new routines and make new friends.

The children's learning this year will be based on the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and will be taught through a child-led theme based approach. The seven areas of learning (see below) and RE will be covered through a mixture of adult led/ focused and self-initiated activities. Children will work individually, with their peers, in family groups and as a class. Learning through play and exploration rather than more formal methods enables new concepts to be put into context. Learning is very practical and, as much as possible, builds on the children's experiences and interests. Our theme for Term 1 is "This is me" it will focus on themselves and their Families'. We will then talk about what we eat to keep us healthy which links to Harvest and then the changes we see in our environment as autumn comes. Term 2 has a "Nursery Rhyme" theme, the nursery rhymes will be chosen after discussions with the children at the end of term 1 about what they would like to learn more about.

#### Communication and Language / Literacy

Much emphasis will be placed on developing the children's speaking and listening skills. We will share a wide range of rhymes, stories, poems, songs and information books with the children. During the first terms time will be spent teaching and reinforcing the children's knowledge of phonics. We use the government's "Letters and Sounds" programme together with parts of "Jolly Phonics" . As each letter and it's sound is introduced, the children learn an accompanying action to support and reinforce their learning. When six new sounds have been learnt the children will bring home flashcards they can use to play games to practise. When children have been introduced to tricky words (words that cannot be completely decoded phonetically) they will also be given these as flashcards to practise reading at home. When these are sent home please keep them home rather than sending them into school each day.

We encourage a love of books. In the early years 'reading' involves

- Knowing that you start at the front cover.
- Understanding which way up a book goes and that the picture on the front cover gives a clue about the contents.
- Telling stories from the pictures.
- Being able to express preferences e.g. favourite part of story, which characters they like or dislike, why they found they found the story funny/exciting/interesting, identifying what happened first/next/last.
- Discussing characters e.g. are they good or bad, how do they feel?
- Predicting what will happen next.
- Understanding that when somebody is reading they are interpreting those 'squiggles' on the pages.
- That text is read from left to right.
- Knowing that there are different kinds of books/text (stories, nursery rhymes, poems, non-fiction.)

Reading is one of the most enjoyable and valuable ways to help your child's development. To help your child at home you can:

- Share books daily.
- Try to make story time a special, calm, cosy time.
- Look at and talk about printed language in the environment - road signs, food packets, labels, text messages etc.
- Communicate with your child, have conversations with your child every day. - Talk to them about what you did, what you/they had for lunch or what they think they might do that day and why.
- At the end of the day recap the day using language such as this morning, after that, finally.
- Talk about what you did yesterday/today and what will happen tomorrow.

Writing is another aspect of communication which will develop over the year. It is really important that the children have opportunities to build their gross motor skills. Good gross motor skills and upper body strength helps them control the smaller movements. You can help at home by providing opportunities for:

- Climbing
- Carrying
- Pulling and pushing
- Mark making with large paintbrushes.
- Large construction
- Making large shapes with ribbons
- Mark making on large sheets of paper/ chalk on the floor.

To support their fine motor development you can provide:

- Picking up small objects with a thumb and first finger.
- Small construction
- Malleable resources such as play dough.
- Using different tools such as ladles/ spoons/ tweezers.

The children's interest in mark making with smaller tools will develop during the year. They will begin by putting 'marks' on paper these may be lines or circles, or 'squiggles'. Writing has many different stages and all children should be supported to move at their own speed. All mark making is valuable and the children are usually keen to explain what they have 'written'. As phonic knowledge and fine motor skills develop, children begin to form recognisable letters. We will be teaching a cursive style of handwriting.

### Mathematics

During terms one and two we will concentrate on counting, recognising numerals, shape, size, and position. Children will learn through practical activities, stories, songs, games and imaginative play. These skills can be re-enforced at home by counting toys/ stairs/ sweets, pointing out numbers on houses/ cars/ television, comparing quantities e.g. who is taller, who has more/less?

### Understanding the World / Expressive Arts and Design

These parts of the Early Years curriculum cover aspects of Science, History, Geography, Art, Music and ICT. Our themes will give opportunities to find out about our families, paint a self-portrait, learn about keeping healthy and look at changes that happen during Autumn/Winter.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Circle time/well-being sessions are a special time when we come together as a class and get to know each other, our feelings, behavioural expectations, making good/bad choices. We talk about what it means to challenge ourselves (be a purple learner) and what this looks like in the classroom. Stories are used to enable the children to associate with the themes/emotions.

### Physical Development

Children will be offered a wide range of physical activities to develop their gross and fine motor skills. Outside they may use the climbing frame, bikes, stilts, bats, balls, etc. Indoors we provide scissors, malleable materials, threading, peg boards and different media to write with such as brushes, chalks and whiteboard pens. Structured P.E sessions are timetabled for a Thursday afternoon. We will begin these sessions on **1<sup>st</sup> October**. It will include dance and movement, games and gymnastics. The children should come to school in their P.E kit. IN the cooler months the children may wish to wear jogging bottoms and a Crowmarsh P.E hooded top.

### R.E.

During terms one and two the children will learn about the Good Samaritan. We will also talk about different celebrations, including Harvest, Hanukah and Christmas.

### Outdoor Learning

We use the outdoor area everyday in all weathers as it is part of our classroom. Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing; a waterproof coat and wellies in wet weather / hat and gloves when it is cold. These can stay in school.

### Snack

Please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle to school every day. A piece of fruit is provided in school for each child. If you would like your child to have milk in school please ensure you have filled in the form requesting milk from the county.

### Morning Routine

The children are settling well into the morning routine, please begin to say 'goodbye' to your child at the Key Stage 1 gate. Children soon learn where to put their book bags, lunch boxes and coats and become impressively independent.

### Going Home

Please notify us, ideally in writing, if a different adult is collecting your child at the end of the day. We have a notebook to record these changes in arrangements to ensure home time runs smoothly and safely. Please check book bags daily for any notes, letters, pictures etc.

### Medicine

Please make sure that any medicines or inhalers are given to a member of staff to store safely. All medicines need to be labelled clearly with the child's name and administering instructions. Please note that the school is not responsible for noting the expiry date of medicines.

### Absences

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please let the school office know as soon as possible. When your child returns to school, please send a note explaining the absence.

### Homework

You should be a reading/sharing books daily. Flashcards will be sent home once sounds are being learnt in school and these should be used at home to reinforce learning. Suggestions for additional activities/games that you can play at home will be put onto the weekly class blog on the school website.

### Self-Isolation Learning

You will be given a learning menu/ it will also be available on the class R webpage. If your child has the need to self-isolate please use the menu to choose their learning.

### Class Bubble Lockdown Learning

If the class has the need to self-isolate then your child can choose from the learning menu available on the class R webpage. There will also be links to websites that may be of use to support your child with their learning at home. If the class teacher is well then Zoom sessions will also be arranged.

### Curriculum Talk

Class R will be having a curriculum talk at 6pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 using Zoom. You will be emailed a link in the next few days.

### Finally

Attending school full time can be very tiring to begin with, especially if you're only 4 years old and all the children will need plenty of sleep every night to recharge their batteries and enjoy school to the full. Children all develop skills at their own rate so do not worry if your child seems unable to do some things yet. Children tend to be more relaxed about these things than parents/carers, and happy children make the best learners!

Please do come in and talk to us if you have any concerns at any time. We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Miss Zimmerman, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Mathews and Mrs Conway

