

Next term our topic is 'Magical Mel'

The aim of this leaflet is to give you an overview of the skills to be covered during the study of this topic. Due to the child focussed curriculum in the Foundation Stage, we are unable to specify exactly what we will be doing as it can change regularly depending on the interests and abilities of the children.

The topic will begin with settling in and learning about all of our friends in the class. The topic will be used as a vehicle to explore children's interests within the seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Three Prime Areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; Physical Development.

Four Specific Areas: Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding of the World; Expressive Arts and Design.

Within these areas the children will be learning skills and working towards specific goals. The goals which they will be working towards achieving by the end of the Foundation stage include:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Time will be spent discussing the importance of body parts and children will be encouraged to talk in groups, show interest and consider consequences. Children will learn to take turns and understand the need for agreed codes of behaviour.

Children will;

- ❖ Continue to be interested, excited and motivated to learn
- ❖ Be confident to try activities, initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group
- ❖ Maintain attention, concentrate and sit quietly when appropriate
- ❖ Have a developing awareness of their own needs, views and feelings of others
- ❖ Form good relationships with peers and adults
- ❖ Work as part of a group or class, taking turns and sharing fairly
- ❖ Dress and undress independently and manage their own personal hygiene
- ❖ Select and use activities and resources independently

Communication, Language and Literacy

During this topic we will look at a range of well-known picture books and stories. Children will enjoy listening to the books and respond in a variety of ways to what they hear, reinforcing and extending their vocabulary. The children will:

- ❖ Enjoy listening to and using spoken and written language, and readily turn to it in their play and learning
- ❖ Explore and experiment with sounds, words and text
- ❖ Sustain attentive listening, responding to what they have heard by relevant comments, questions or actions
- ❖ Interact with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversation
- ❖ Speak clearly and audibly with confidence and control
- ❖ Hear and say the initial and final sounds in words, and short vowel sounds within words
- ❖ Attempt writing for different purposes
- ❖ Write their own names and other things such as labels and captions
- ❖ Use a pencil and hold it effectively



Mathematical Development

Children will be given the opportunity to count people, hands and facial features and begin to develop language for addition and subtraction. Hands and feet may be used as non-standard units for measuring and children will explore shape, size and position of ears and hands.

Children will be able to:

- ❖ Say and use the number names in order in familiar contexts
- ❖ Count reliably up to ten everyday objects
- ❖ Use language such as 'more' or 'less' to compare two numbers
- ❖ In practical activities and discussion begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting
- ❖ Talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns
- ❖ Use language such as 'circle' or 'bigger' to describe the shape and size of shapes
- ❖ Use everyday words to describe position
- ❖ Use appropriate language to compare quantities

Understanding of the World

This topic offers lots of opportunities for the children to make observations, ask questions and to compare. They can explore the differences and similarities in eyes, hands, feet and ears as well as becoming more aware of their own bodies and how the various parts are positioned. These goals provide a foundation for scientific technology, historical and geographical learning. Children will:

- ❖ Investigate objects and materials by using all of their senses as appropriate
- ❖ Find out about and identify some features of living things, objects and events they observe
- ❖ Build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting appropriate resources
- ❖ Find out about past and present events in their own lives and in those of their families and other people they know
- ❖ Observe, find out about and identify features in the place they live and the natural world
- ❖ Begin to know about their environment and talk about those features they like and dislike

Physical Development

Activities will be set up to help children use different tools and materials effectively and safely. As children learn to warm up before physical activities they will learn more about their bodies and as children are encouraged to notice what their bodies can do there are many opportunities for movement and balancing activities.

Children will be able to:

- ❖ Move with confidence and safety
- ❖ Show awareness of space, of themselves and of others
- ❖ Use a range of small and large equipment
- ❖ Travel around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment



Expressive Arts and Design

During this topic children will experience working with a variety of materials as they make collages of faces. They will be able to develop their skills of painting and mixing colours as they create a self-portrait. They will sing appropriate songs and learn some actions. Throughout all the activities children will be encouraged to talk about their ideas.

- ❖ Capture experiences and responses with music, dance, paint and other materials or words
- ❖ Begin to construct, stacking blocks vertically and horizontally making enclosures and creating spaces
- ❖ Explore what happens when they mix colours
- ❖ Begin to build a repertoire of songs
- ❖ Explore the different sounds of instruments
- ❖ Engage in imaginative play and role-play based on their own first hand experiences

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Partnerships with Parents is a developing area for our Early Years Unit and under the new Early Years Framework it is especially important that we communicate as much as possible about the children's achievements and progress.

Meetings for Parents:

- **Wednesday 7th September at 6:00pm** An opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and ask any questions. We will talk about routines, expectations and talk about assessment and the curriculum. In Early Years, this will also be an opportunity to introduce new parents to Tapestry, the online learning journal.
- **Thursday 20th October at 6:00pm** will be our 'Getting ready to write and phonics workshop' in Early Years. This will be a fun, interactive workshop to show you some strategies on how to help your child at home as well as giving you an insight into how we teach phonics at school.

Please note that children are welcome to attend these meetings with parents.

P.E. Kit (Reception only):

Please ensure that your child has a **named PE kit** in school every day. This should consist of:

- a plain white t-shirt
- blue shorts
- plimsolls that fit
- a spare jumper/tracksuit bottoms (outdoor P.E.)

Visits/Visitors

These will be arranged depending on the children's interests

Holidays

During the first week it would be nice to share the children's holiday experiences. Whether it was a visit to the park, pool or somewhere hot and sunny; it would be nice to see a photograph or artefacts to show your child enjoying the break from school.

Show and Tell

Children are encouraged to bring in items from home to Show and Tell to the class. It has a positive effect on children's confidence and also helps their speaking and listening skills. We try to limit the items brought in to topic-related items only but if you have been on a special holiday or it has been your child's birthday and they would like to share something then please bring it in. Show and Tell in Reception, is on a Friday only please.

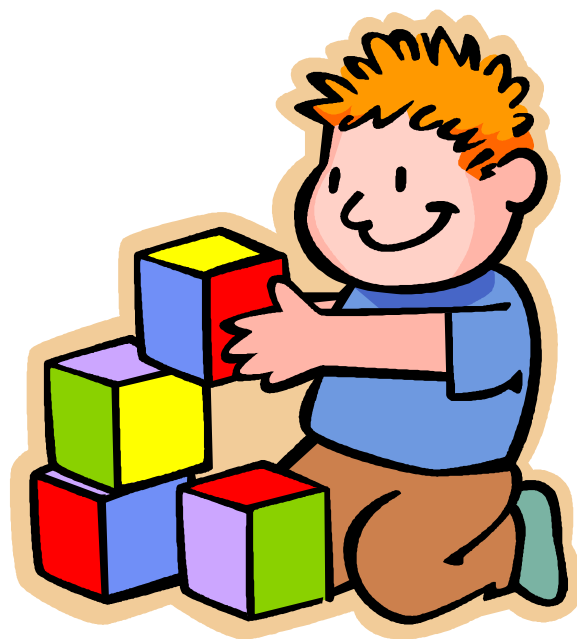


Please feel free to drop in to Early Years at any time to speak to a member of staff, we are always available before and after school and will be happy to answer any questions or queries.

We look forward to working with you and your child.

Heddon St Andrew's CofE
First School

Magical Me!



Autumn Term 1 2016

Nursery - Mrs Leja and Mrs Armstrong

Reception - Mrs Southern, Mrs Haddock and Mrs McGurk