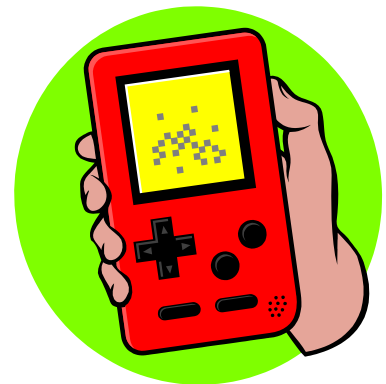


Welcome to this half term's curriculum leaflet for
Early Years
Spring 1 2018

Toys



Reception - Mrs Abbott, Miss Thompson and Mrs Haddock
Nursery - Mrs Leja, Miss Kerridge and Mrs Derbyshire



For many children, toys of every kind feature heavily on their letters to Santa and so we decided to use this topic of Toys to steer the children's learning in the New Year. We are hoping that this topic will encourage lots of talk and conversation between peers. Within this topic the children will be investigating different toys and specifically looking at how they work. There will also be the opportunity to look at toys from the past.

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 be used as a vehicle to explore children's interests within the seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will have lots of opportunities and be encouraged to learn to share and take turns by playing with toys. Specific activities on toys throughout the weekly themes encourage particular parts of Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Inevitably many of the Early Learning goals will be covered as a result of the activities in other key areas as children will continue to work together and be part of a team. During this term The Hedgehog class will start with a 'class bear'. The bear will remain in the classroom until the weekend when it will choose a special child to take it home. They will have a scrap book with them where you can record what your child does when the bear came to visit. This encourages children to talk about their experiences outside school and develop their speaking and listening skills.

Physical Development

All children in Reception have a P.E lesson in the hall and the focus for this half term is Ball Skills. Due to the physical nature of the activities we do in Early Years both inside and outside the classroom, the children are actively working on their physical development. As well as their gross motor skills, it is essential that we provide opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills. Children will continue to handle tools such as scissors, and use them safely with increasing control. Through building with construction toys, using a variety of puppets, handling precious toys sensitively and playing action games, children can develop control and coordination whilst also having the opportunity to work in an imaginative way. We are hoping to go on an Early Years' bike/scooter/trike ride during this topic at Wallington Hall, on their purpose built cycle path; a great opportunity to practise and showcase our motor skills!



Literacy and Communication

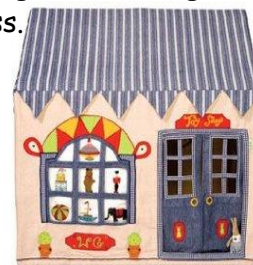
During this topic children will be encouraged to read stories and tell stories while responding to a variety of imaginative situations and participating in role play. With the chance of making lots of toys children will be encouraged to plan their designs and label their pictures to show what they need. Children can develop their early writing skills by labelling pictures and write lists of what they need. Children will continue to look at print and know that it carries meaning and will encourage them to write their own signs and labels to give a purpose for their writing. Throughout all the activities, children will be encouraged to communicate fluently with meaning.

Phonics

The children in Early Years have a phonics session every day, using the Read Write Inc. program. They are continuing to progress really well and are beginning to apply their phonological knowledge. In Nursery, Letters And Sounds will be used to teach early phonological awareness.

Mathematics

Toys will be a natural focus for children's attention and this will encourage them to join in conversation, using a range of descriptive mathematical vocabulary. Several games are suggested in which children jump, clap or skip a given number of times which will reinforce number skills. Specific activities concentrate on individual numbers, helping children to develop familiarity with numbers and an understanding of what the numbers 'look' like. Toys are also good objects to sort, compare and order. As children sort toys into sets or rank a line of teddies in order of size, they will build a working vocabulary of descriptive and comparative language. The role play area is going to be a toy workshop which will give the children an understanding of designing toys, using the vocabulary related to size and weight.



Understanding The World

The topic of 'Toys' provides an opportunity to help children experience similarities and differences between toys. They will have the chance to continue to look at some programmable toys to support their learning in ICT and encourage children to look at the everyday use of technology. In addition to this, children will also look at old toys and what toys were like in the past. We will encourage them to talk to their parents and grandparents to find out what toys they played with and how they are different to toys that are available today. Children can also look at toys they played with when they were babies and what they play with now to recognise the differences to their own needs.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will experience working with a variety of materials as they make and play with toys. Music and dance will be used to stimulate imaginative responses, for example listening to 'Fantastic Toy Shop' music and dancing to it. Stories and games throughout the topic provide a key stimulus for looking and responding. There will be lot of opportunities for children to make things and all children will have a go at making their own toy in adult led sessions. Please continue to send in junk boxes etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Reading:

To promote early reading skills and the enjoyment of books and stories, children will choose a book from the school library to share at home every week. The children will choose their own book and it should be put back in the book bag so that it can be changed on Friday. When the teacher changes the book they will talk to your child about the story to find out how they enjoyed it.

In Reception your child will be bringing home a reading book when they are ready. Please encourage your child to read regularly at home and write a comment in the orange Reading Record book when they have read.

Mystery Reader:

During this half-term we would like to invite you into the class to be our Mystery Reader. This has been a very successful activity in the past and children have loved seeing their grown-up come in to school and read a story of their choice *(especially when it is organised as a surprise). Reading times can be just before lunch (11:30) or before home time (2:30) throughout the week. Please let a member of Early Years' staff know if you would like to be a mystery reader.

P.E. Kit:

If your child is in Reception, please ensure that they have a **named PE kit** in school every day. This should consist of:

- a plain white t-shirt
- blue/black shorts

Visits/Visitors

We are very excited about a visit to go on a bike ride at Wallington Hall which is currently being planned. More details will be released as we have them.

If you have a favourite toy from your childhood or would like to come in and talk about the toys you played with, please let us know.

We always welcome help and support in the classroom and if you would like to come and help on a regular basis please let us know what day would suit you best.

Please feel free to come in to school anytime if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Abbott , Early Years' Coordinator



Toys Weekly Enhancement Plan

Week Beginning:	Focus
Tues 9 th Jan	Whole School Art Focus week: Teddy Bears & Teddy Bears' Picnic
Mon 15 th Jan	
Mon 22 nd Jan	Toys from the past
Mon 29 th Jan	
Mon 5 th Feb	Outdoor Toys - Trip to Wallington Hall?