

TIME TRAVELLERS ~ GAMES, TOYS AND TALES

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be focussing on helping children to make and sustain friendships and to work co-operatively together. We will be encouraging children to demonstrate greater independence and to work towards self chosen goals. They will be reflecting on what they and others are good at and expressing the feelings they have in different situations. Our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes for the term are **Going for Goals** and **Good to Be Me**. Through these themes children will consider the steps they can take towards achieving targets and how feelings can be recognised and managed.

Helping at home

- . Think of goal that your child can work towards e.g. taking care of toys by tidying them up.
- . When sharing books together find opportunities to talk about how the characters might be feeling.

Communication and Language

Speaking and listening skills will continue to be developed through a variety of games and other learning opportunities. Children will interact with each other to enhance their communication skills, they will negotiate plans and activities and take turns in conversations. We will help them to present their ideas to others with clarity and in greater detail. We will be encouraging the children to respond to a range of stories, rhymes and songs.

Helping at home

- . Help your child to learn the rules of a game and then get them to explain how it is played to someone else.
- . Make up a story with your child about one of their favourite toys, or a group of toys.

Physical Development

The children will continue to be involved in daily physical activity sessions. They will be encouraged to explore how they can use equipment and control their movements, learning different ways to balance and to negotiate pathways. We will help children to recognise how exercise, rest and sleep contribute to good health. An effective pencil grip will be developed and children will practise forming correct letter shapes. Another area of focus will involve the handling of different tools such as scissors, drills and hacksaws.

Helping at home

- . Play games that involve movement, such as 'Simon Says' and the 'Hokey Cokey'.
- . Encourage your child to gain a new physical skill with such toys as a skipping rope, marbles and balls.

Literacy

The enjoyment and value of reading will continue to be promoted. Through a variety of texts children will be able to add to their experience of the world. These texts will also be used to develop the vocabulary and forms of speech that they use. Children will be given appropriate reading material so that they can gain confidence and have a positive view of their reading ability. Meaningful contexts will provide opportunities for children to write for themselves.

Helping at home

- . Share a book about a toy and get your child to tell you what they enjoyed about it. Write their response down on a sticky note to send into school.
- . Encourage your child to put together their own toy catalogue and write a caption to go with each toy.

Mathematics

Children will gain a greater understanding of number, estimate sets of objects and accurately count sets of increasing size. They will learn how to combine sets, to find one more and one less and to relate subtraction to 'taking away'. Activities will encourage children to use words that help to describe position and direction. We will develop mathematical vocabulary and understanding relating to the description of shapes and the measurement of time and length. Problem solving challenges will be regular aspects of learning opportunities that are organised for the children.

Helping at home

- . Play a game that involves a numbered board, the use of dice and counting.
- . Set up a toy shop with your child. Price the toys and use pennies to buy them.

Understanding the World

Children will be helped to think of questions they can ask to find out about why things happen and how things work. They will be using many of their senses to investigate objects and materials. Opportunities will be provided for children to use a variety of resources and tools to build and construct with a purpose in mind, making adaptations when required. ICT will be used to perform simple functions, and computer skills will be developed alongside age- appropriate software. We will also be investigating the environment of the school and identifying features of it.

Helping at home

- . Try out a computer game that gives your child experience of early coding, such as the app 'Bee-Bot', or 'Daisy the Dinosaur'.
- . Talk to your child about the toys that you used to play with when you were a child.

Expressive Arts and Design

There will be opportunities for children to respond to what they see, feel, touch and smell. Children will be combining different media to create a variety of effects and exploring different means of construction. Activities will involve children in expressing and communicating their ideas, thoughts and feelings through songs and music. They'll also experiment with how sounds can be changed. By engaging in play situations and performing with others, children will have scope to make use of their imagination.

Helping at home

- . Help your child to make their own base board for a game.
- . Have a go at making a toy instrument, one you can shake, or pluck or blow. It can be used to play along with a song that you sing with your child.

Remember, any sticky notes that you can send in to let us know about your child's experiences and achievements will be much appreciated.