



Newsletter October 2017

Tiddlers and Seahorses



Babies are excited to begin our autumn season and we will be updating our lovely displays with our creative work. To extend our Understanding of the World, Tiddlers and seahorses will be exploring the natural world around us with various natural tactile activities. Our tactile play will include items we have collected from the garden and our walks, from conkers, leaves and twigs to autumn sensory bottles and homemade objects. We plan to continue our garden time and have been getting our baby garden ready for the autumn months. Please could we ask for lots of changes of clothes, outdoor shoes and all-in-ones for the rainy days.

As Halloween approaches, we will be using skills to carve pumpkins and get messy with the contents inside and will be investigating all things spooky!

As the weather is changing, please could we ask parents to bring in wellies and raincoats or all-in-one suits. To encourage our communication development, babies have enjoyed short stories during our 'birth to thrive' time so we will be continuing story-time and activities to support these areas further. We have updated and moved around our seahorse room to provide an area in which the babies can enjoy one-to-one time with the ladies.



With our focus heavily on CL (Communication and Language) and PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development), we are excited to be starting a sensory class with Hartbeeps on Thursday afternoons and ask all parents interested to return the forms so we can proceed with this.

We would finally like to welcome all of our new babies along with their parents and carers into tiddlers and seahorses and hope you have as much fun as we do!

Goldfish

This month the Goldfish children will be exploring the autumn season and will be out and about collecting leaves and conkers to explore in the tactile tray. We will link in with our EAD (Expressive, Art and Design) skills and make some pictures with the resources.

To extend our Understanding of the World, we will celebrate Diwali by using lots of different colours in play and talking about the different ones we can see, mix and make new ones.

For Halloween at the end of October goldfish will be exploring pumpkins and playing with orange and black playdough.



Seashells

This month seashells will be marking autumn in many ways. We will be making some conker rolling pictures with different paints and paper. We will also be talking about conkers to encourage our communication, fine motor and maths skills by comparing sizes.



We will be marking Halloween with some colourful medias in the tactile tray, some spooky mark making and some special baking, all of which will encourage our PD, UW and CL skills. The seashell children have been practising pouring their own drinks at snack time and have been doing very well. They will be continuing this and it would be good to continue this at home to develop their independence, UW and fine motor manipulation skills.



Lastly, we would love some family photos to display in our room so we can discuss our families and the differences and similarities of who lives with us in our home.

Starfish



What's happening in **starfish** this month?

The weather is turning colder and the nights are getting darker the children have been noticing that the leaves are turning different colours, brown, yellow, orange and red, we will be talking about what happens in autumn to the trees and plants and animals to increase the children's knowledge about their environment.

Our new children who have come from seashells have all settled in well in starfish, as we are getting to know them they are getting to know the team and their keyworker.

It's important that your child makes a strong bond with their keyworker it not only helps the child if they are unsettled but also helps them assess their key child's abilities.



Our letter of the month is **J** and our colour is red_our shape is **square**, our book of the month is **Room on the Broom**.

For our planning this month we are going to be completing activities to correspond with our letter of the month **J**; we will be using our physical skills (fine motor) to spread and cut to make some jam sandwiches and have them for snack, we will be using our gross motor skills for **jumping** over obstacle's inside and outside in the garden. We will be getting arty with orange paint and **jam jars** to print with and investigating a **jungle** sensory play activity, we will be making **jack o lanterns** letters and **jelly fish**.

This month is Diwali to mark this celebration we will be making clay tea light holders to mark the festival of light, we will also be trying some of the traditional foods eaten at this time of year for snack.



Halloween is fast approaching at the end of the month so our home corner may be turned into a spooky den with spiders and sparkly lights. We will be making some salt spider webs and using our threading skills to practise our hand eye coordination to thread spider webs, our sensory experience to coincide with this festival will be green jelly with spiders and other creepy crawlies in, I'm sure the children will love that... not sure about the adults though!



Parents please note out parent noticeboard at the top of the stairs for any important information that needs to be passed on.

As the weather is turning colder can we please ask for wellies for your child and a waterproof if possible, and please name the item - we hate it just as much as you when items go missing.

All items from home for our interest table at the top of the stairs gratefully received.

Thank you for your support.

Starfish practitioners: Joanne, Wendy, Hailey, Abbie and Sherrie Ann.

Preschool



This month we continue to focus on our British Values and Children's Freedom of Choice. We will continue to implement the mosaic approach to learning, in that the children themselves take photos of activities, toys and things they like doing. By doing so, we have listened to what they are telling us and acting on their feedback by adapting some of our classes accordingly, our role play area round their interests plus new toys and routines.



Our topics this month revolve around autumn, Diwali and Halloween. As the weather changes, we will be extending our Understanding of the World by enlisting our EAD skills and creating autumn collages with paint and glue, conkers and acorns. We will be conker rolling in paint, pine cone printing and leaf rubbing. We will be enlisting the Characteristics of Effective learning by mixing our own colours with powder paint and finding out which colours mixed together make the colours associated with autumn. We will be using our Maths skills to sort and count conkers, pine cones, pumpkin seeds, leaves and acorns as well as practising our fine motor control as we manipulate tweezers to pick up the prickly conker cases! We will be celebrating Diwali by making diva lamps from clay and painting them. We will also be making rangoli hand patterns, developing our fine motor manipulation. We are using our very own autumn talking box to encourage communication and language skills, as well as a feely bag to describe textures and guess what's in the bag!



We will be acknowledging the custom, not the meaning, of Halloween with pumpkin and jelly tactile play, using tweezers to sort pumpkin seeds and our fingers to feel and smell red, green and orange jelly and have fun mixing the different colours together in the pumpkins.

Letter of the Week

Letter of the week commences Monday 2nd October with the letter N followed by O, P, Q and R the following weeks.

As always, any items you have at home beginning with these letters each week are gratefully received and used on our theme table. This greatly encourages confidence and sense of self-worth when the children have something to show and tell at circle time. Please ensure they are named, and small enough to fit in your child's drawer when we have finished sharing them. Thank you.

Colour of the week

The children themselves choose a different colour each week and really enjoy collecting objects of that colour in and around nursery. This encourages their colour recognition and the characteristics of effective learning in making links. Please encourage your child to look for the colour of the week at home, and again, any items from home are welcome for our theme table situated in the first room.



We are also in the process of a shape and number of the week to add to our theme tables!

Interests and achievements board



We encourage you to write down your child's interest or achievement on the interest board situated to the right of the whiteboard on the wall. This helps us in providing for your child's stimulation, aids our planning of the seven areas of learning and also enables us to celebrate your child's achievement which furthers their PSED skills and sense of self. We also have a WOW board, where you can write your child's achievement on a star and place it on the board (even better with a photo!).

Reminders

- Please can we remind parents to call and inform us if your child is going to be absent for nursery for any reason to allow for meals and staff ratios to be adjusted. Thank you.
- Please ensure you sign your child both IN and OUT of nursery each day. We need to account for all children at nursery to ensure the safety of your child in the unlikely event we must evacuate the building for any reason.
- Another gentle reminder that we do encourage children to leave toys and teddies at home. Several items are still finding their way into nursery and have subsequently been lost or broken, so we are asking that children bring only books they can share and will fit into their drawers when finished.
- Please can you ensure your child has ONE waterproof coat, ONE pair of waterproof trousers and ONE pair of wellie boots in nursery, as well as a change of clothes. Please ensure all items are NAMED to prevent loss.

Thank you for your support as ever.
Sarah, Cherye, Emma, Kim and Alec

Kitchen news: 'Susan says'...

"This month sees the start of our Autumnal menu and the children will be enjoying seasonal produce and encouraged to try new foods. Remember you can order a birthday cake from me, for your child to share with his or her friends. I need at least 48 hours' notice and I can make plain, vanilla, chocolate or lemon flavours"



Dates for your diaries



Caroline our photographer is in nursery the week commencing Monday 2nd October for your Christmas cards! Feel free to dress your child accordingly....

That's all for this month!! 😊