

**Term: Autumn**

**Year Group: Pre-School**

**Email: caterpillars@shirley.cambs.sch.uk**

## Welcome



Welcome! Whether you're returning to Pre-School or you are new to Pre-School we are very happy to have you with us. We are having a great time with your children and we're looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year.

The children are looking very grown up, proud and smart in their uniforms. Please remember to name items of clothing which are likely to be removed (e.g. jumpers, coats, wellies) so they can be returned to your child or you should they go astray!

## Topics



Our topic during the first half of the autumn term is Bears so we will visit our school library and borrow a variety of fiction and non-fiction books about bears. The children will be able to make masks and puppets, wear dressing up costumes and role play their favourite stories. The children will develop many skills through crafts, music sessions, mathematical games, songs and rhymes. They will also investigate a few species of bears and find out things about their habitats and what they eat.

## 50 Things To Do Before You're Five

The 50 Things To Do Before You're Five mobile app shares low or no-cost experiences which support children's social, emotional, physical and early language development. We are going to carry out one of the activities each week from the app. The children will gain confidence in trying out new experiences and most importantly, have lots of fun!



Keep an eye on pre-school's class blog to see what the children have been getting up to. Your child will enjoy trying these activities out at home too.

## Dairy Dates

- 4<sup>th</sup> October - School closed for training day
- 12<sup>th</sup> October - Individual children's photos
- Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> October - Parent consultations (for September starters)
- 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October - Half term
- Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> December - Parent consultations (for all children)
- Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas crafts (more information nearer the time)
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of Autumn term



In the second half of the autumn term we will explore colours. The children will be able to experiment with colour mixing and compare different shades of colours. We will look at how they are used in the natural environment and the world around us, for example, animal fur, traffic lights, school uniform. We will also connect colours to feelings and emotions when we share the book *The Colour Monster*.

## Outdoor Learning

We enjoy regular visits to the school's nature area and field. It's important that children have appropriate clothing for these visits so that they can make the most of their learning experiences. Please ensure your child has a warm coat as the weather turns colder and a pair of wellington boots to wear when playing on the wet grass. Outdoor learning supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, and promoting a sense of well-being.



## Shirley Community Primary School

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Over the coming weeks we will be helping the children to make books about themselves. They love to see pictures of the children so we can talk about what they were doing. If you have any spare photos of your child which would be suitable for their book please send them in to us. Alternatively you could email them to us and we will print them. Please write one or two sentences about what's happening in the picture, either on the back of the photo or in your email. Thank you 😊 At Pre-School we use colourful sand timers to help the children learn how to take turns and share. It gives visual support to the children while they wait for their turn and also to know when their turn has finished - both of these skills can be tricky for young children.

During each week we will have regular circle time activities. This will help the children to learn names and get to know children in Pre-School. During circle time, the children will be encouraged to explore and talk about their feelings, emotions, likes and dislikes. They will be able to practise turn taking in conversation; gaining confidence in speaking and paying attention when listening.

### Language & Communication Development

The children's communication and language development is an integral part of everything we do. The children practise and develop in all situations and we will make the most of that. For example, snack and story times, answering and asking questions, understanding and using new vocabulary.

Each week the children will practise a new rhyme based on a topic. This will be added to Pre-School's home learning page on the school website so you can practise it with your child at home too. Sharing rhyme regularly with your child is a great way of encouraging their recognition of rhythm and rhyme. Alliteration is a fun way to play with sounds too. Maybe you could try it together using the first sound of your child's name. For example, Sarah sees sausages sizzling. It is important to let them play with words and sounds as it supports early brain development and helps to build foundations for early learning.

We will read stories and share books with the children every day, often supported by giant books, story sacks, puppets or other props. Their concentration and memory will develop as they look at illustrations, use the props/puppets and talk about the story.

### Physical Development



Gross motor skill development involves the large muscles in the arms, legs and torso. Gross motor activities are important to everyday physical activities like walking, running, throwing, lifting, kicking, etc. Gross motor abilities also form the basis for fine motor skills and relate to body awareness, reaction, speed, balance and strength. At home you can encourage gross motor development by encouraging your child to do activities like climbing, sweeping, balancing on one foot or hopping, jumping, and using ride-on toys.

This is the perfect time for young children to learn self-help skills. We will always encourage and support the children while they learn these skills so don't be put off doing it at home too. It gives the children great satisfaction and pride to have some independence when doing things like putting on their own shoes, gloves, or coat.