Didsbury CE Primary School

Belonging Believing Becoming

Thrive CE Academy Trust

Family Learning Guide

Nursery | Spring term

Stories and talk • growing independence • changing materials • plants

FIRST HALF-TERM
Exploring winter: ice, light, shadows and Lunar New Year.

SECOND HALF-TERM
Growing and changing: seeds, animals, friendships and Easter.

A simple guide to what your child will be learning in Nursery this term, the key experiences they will enjoy and how you can support their learning at home.

Communication & Language

- We gradually listen for longer in small groups and stories (working towards around ten minutes with support). Children respond to "who?", "what?" and "where?" questions, begin to tackle "why?" questions and follow instructions containing more information.
- Pretend play helps us use new words, ask questions, describe where things are and take part in longer back-and-forth conversations.

Mathematics

- We sort shapes and objects, use words such as "under", "behind" and "next to", explore routes, make repeating patterns and play "give/take" games with one, two or three objects.
- Block play develops to Stage 3: balancing two supports with a block across to make bridges and passageways. Children test what will stay up and describe the shapes and positions they use.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Our "Dreams and Goals" learning helps us keep trying, work with a partner and enjoy success after a challenge.
- Later we talk about healthy bodies: food, movement, sleep, handwashing and staying safe.
- We practise patience and asking for help when needed.

Understanding the World

- We explore torches, shadows and, in Spring 1, melting and freezing ice.
- We talk about what changes when we bake and learn about Lunar New Year.
- In Spring 2 we plant seeds, take photographs of their growth and talk together about what we notice, using words such as "first", "next" and "grow".
- We also compare animals and learn about Easter.

Physical Development

- We build obstacle courses, learn to put on our coats and carry large resources safely.
- As drawings move from large sheets to smaller pages, children begin using a more finger-led grip (often a five-finger or four-finger grasp).
- Dough, pipettes and crayons improve control; crosses, squares and zigzags (Beery-style pre-writing shapes) prepare the movements needed for later letter formation.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Our Stage 3 block play focuses on bridges and passageways, inspired by stories such as The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
- We experiment with balance, use blocks to tell stories and join models with tape or string.
- We also print patterns, add detail to pictures, explore how instruments sound loud/quiet or fast/slow, and create seasonal artwork.

Literacy

- We notice print in books, recognise our names and add more detail to drawings.
- Our pre-phonics sound work now includes body percussion and copying patterns (Spring 1), followed by finding words that rhyme, noticing the same starting sounds (alliteration) and enjoying tongue twisters (Spring 2).
- Hearing these patterns first helps children tune in to the individual sounds they will later link to letters.

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Our Reading & Rhyme Journey

Nursery • Spring term

Our core texts are explored in more depth; supporting stories enrich our daily reading. We also revisit favourite books and rhymes throughout the year.

Spring 1

CORE TEXTS • Original book cover artwork



Goldilocks and the Three Bears



The Colour Monster



Going to the Volcano



Trains, Trains, Trains!



Oh No, George!



Each Peach Pear Plum

OTHER STORIES WE WILL SHARE

- The Great Race
- Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?
- Snow
- Lulu Loves the Library
- Aliens Love Underpants
- Mog the Forgetful Cat

NURSERY RHYMES & SONGS

- Three Blind Mice
- When Goldilocks Went to the House of the Bears
- Clap, Clap Hands 1, 2, 3

Spring 2

CORE TEXTS • Original book cover artwork



Superworm



Penguin


Triangle



Mrs Wobble the Waitress



The Gingerbread Man

OTHER STORIES WE WILL SHARE

- The Something
- My Body
- Handa's Surprise
- Loud
- Mrs Owl's Forest School: The Wet Welly Day

NURSERY RHYMES & SONGS

- I'm a Little Teapot
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- Five Little Speckled Frogs

A LITTLE IDEA FOR HOME

Try a simple ice-cube experiment together: where will the ice melt fastest? Encourage your child to describe what changed.

Our curriculum is flexible: experiences may be adapted or revisited to match children's interests and needs.