

Newcomen Primary School Nursery Curriculum Overview

Introduction

At Newcomen Primary School, we are passionate about enthusing our children with a love of learning which is both meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is designed to allow our children to develop all important human qualities and dispositions. While knowledge is integral to the design of our ambitious curriculum, the key driver is the ethos and values of our school. We have a holistic approach where pupils can access a knowledge rich, vocabulary focused curriculum which builds skills and reinforces learning. We offer children an exemplary education in a safe, calm and purposeful environment. Our aim is to nurture well-rounded, respectful and resilient children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We aspire for all our children to be respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

Communication and Language

Your child will be part of a language-rich environment where they will have constant opportunities to engage in quality interactions and conversations. The children will enjoy learning to listen to their friends and develop an interest in what others have to say. Whilst having fun in role play areas linked to our topics, children will be developing a wide range of vocabulary and the ability to interact confidently with others.

Physical Development

Creative playdough, cutting and threading activities will all be readily available everyday to support the development of fine motor skills. Through regular use of the outdoor area, we will practise balancing, climbing and spatial awareness. The children will enjoy riding different vehicles and playing with a range of equipment to strengthen their gross motor skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning lies at the heart of everything your child will do at Newcomen nursery. It is essential that the children develop a positive sense of themselves and respect for others. Throughout the year, we will be talking about our emotions and how to self-regulate. Learning how to share and understanding how to be a kind friend will be the prime focus. We will spend time modelling positive relationships and how to work out situations during play. Role play areas such as the home corner offer the perfect place to develop such skills.

Literacy

Developing a love of stories will be easy after spending time in nursery! Each week the book fairy delivers a new story with props. The children will have a wonderful time acting out the stories, talking about the characters and retelling events in the story. Singing songs and nursery rhymes will be part of everyday in nursery and the children will be playing games to help them tune into rhyming words. There will be many opportunities to develop early writing and encourage mark making. The children will be writing shopping lists and letters to their friends in the different role play areas. They will also choose a Reading for Pleasure book every week to share at home that will help to develop their love of reading and extend their increasing vocabulary.

Mathematics

The children will develop an understanding of number through interactive games and real life opportunities within role play. Singing finger rhymes is important in helping children to count in sequence and say the number names confidently. Counting groups of objects and being able to select a specific number of items will be part of our everyday learning. The children will be exploring a range of puzzles, blocks and shape sorters to talk about different shapes and begin looking at their properties.

Expressive Arts and Design

Everyday, children will engage in imaginative play. This will develop the ability to incorporate stories in play using small world equipment including dolls' houses, castles and animal sets. Children are always enthusiastic about the chance to play musical instruments and explore a range of sounds as well as movement. We look forward to the wonderful creations the children will be making using a range of materials of their choice.

Understanding of the World

A lot of the children's time in nursery will be spent in the home corner as this relates directly to their own lives and experiences. This will provide opportunities to explore their understanding of the world. Children will gain an insight into the wider world through our topics. They will explore living things, natural environments and different countries. We will learn that people around the world have different beliefs and celebrations as we explore our own communities and festivals.

Goals we hope to achieve

- To develop speaking and listening skills to allow children to maintain attention during story time and activities.
- To develop speech and language skills and be able to speak in a clear voice.
- To learn how to play together and interact harmoniously, sharing and turn taking.
- To build up an awareness of sounds around us, with the ability to distinguish between sounds that we hear.
- To develop an awareness of rhyme. Being able to sing a range of nursery rhymes and make a rhyming pair.
- To hear initial sounds in familiar and simple words e.g. S for snake.
- To hear and say orally blended words e.g. c- a-t, d-o-g.
- To gain an understanding of numbers. Counting sets of objects saying one number name for each item and begin to recognise numbers saying their name.
- To enjoy a story, turning pages and talking about the pictures.
- To put on a coat and shoes.

How can you help?

- Share a book each day with your child to help develop interest and enjoyment in stories. Offer them opportunities to tell you the story using the pictures.
- Always talk to your child about their time at nursery each day. Encourage your child to talk whenever possible, using correct pronunciation.
- Find opportunities to count, helping your child to say number names in order and count objects one at a time. Play games to develop awareness of sounds e.g. I spy.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves and use the toilet independently.
- Provide your child with opportunities to make marks on paper and begin early writing using a range of tools e.g. pencils, paint brushes. It is very important to allow your child to experience the use of scissors and play dough to develop their motor skills.
- Sing the rhyme of the week together and talk about the sound of the week.

Essential Information

- Books bags to be brought to school on a Monday and will be sent back out on Wednesday.
- Please put your child's name in all items of clothing.
- The children have snack together each day and enjoy exploring a range of foods. If you would like to make a voluntary contribution, please bring a contribution to school.
- The children are encouraged to bring items in for show and tell such as photographs, drawings, a leaflet from a recent trip or an item that links to our sound of the week. We ask that toys are not brought to school.