Highwood Primary School

Promoting Resilience - Achieving Potential

Nursery Curriculum Newsletter- Autumn 1 2026.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Highwood!

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child. We are pleased to share the skills and knowledge that will be covered through our Early Years curriculum over the next few weeks. It should give you an insight as to what we are doing at school and can be used to prompt conversations with your child about their learning.

Topics and key texts may change as the term goes on as we endeavour to follow the children's interests but the skills and knowledge we teach them will be the same.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Miss Gowers, Mrs Hayford, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Martin.

Communication and Language

We will be playing different games to develop our listening skills. We will learn how to sit quietly and listen when others are talking. We will develop the confidence to speak to our new teachers and friends, both one-to-one and in small groups.

We will be learning lots of new words associated with the new school routines.



Physical Development

We will be developing spatial awareness skills as we become used to our outdoor area.

We will be doing Busy Fingers activities every day to improve our fine motor skills.

Get Set 4 Education

During PE sessions, we will be following the Get Set 4 PE scheme. We will be focusing on moving in different ways, developing our spatial awareness.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be getting used to the new routines and people at Nursery. We will be playing lots of games to help us to learn everybody's name. We will be exploring the new classroom and outdoor area and becoming familiar with the rules and behaviour expectations. There will be lots of sharing and turn-taking going on, as we will all want to have a go at new activities.

Jigsaw The mindful approach to PSHE

Once we are all settled, we will start our PSHE programme – Jigsaw. We will become familiar with Jigsaw Jenie and Jerry Cat as we play games, learn how to be calm and share ideas with our classmates.

Reminders

PE lessons are on a **Thursday** morning. Please ensure your child comes to school in trainers, joggers/leggings and long hair tie back on these days.



Library – your child will bring home a library book every Friday. Please return it each week so that they can select a new one.



Water bottles – please send a named bottle of drinking water in each day with your child.



Home Learning

Please see the home-learning grid for some fun activities you can do at home with your child to consolidate their learning.

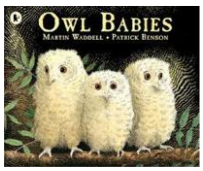
Take some time to look at your child's library book together. Encourage your child to talk about the pictures.

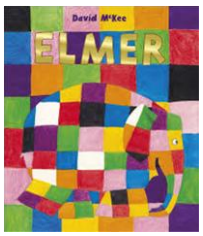
Most importantly – talk to your child about Nursery and all the new things that they are doing.

Literacy

The children will be introduced to lots of stories and rhymes. Some of our key texts will be:







We will be learning about how to handle books and looking at the print and illustrations in books and all around us. Encouraging the children to re-tell their own stories, mark make their ideas and their name.

Mathematics

We will be singing lots of number rhymes and songs as well as doing lots of counting.



We will be developing our mathematical skills as we explore the "builder's yard" and learn how to build and construct with blocks, Duplo and a range of other materials. There will be lots of opportunities for talking about colour, size and shape.

Understanding the World

We will be learning all about autumn as we observe the seasonal changes in the weather and our outdoor environment. We will go on an autumn walk so that we can use our senses to explore.





We will be learning about how each of us is unique. We will be discussing similarities and differences between us and our friends.



We will have opportunities to find out how to make mechanical and electronic toys work by winding them up or pressing buttons.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be using natural materials to create pictures and collages and will have a go at conker-rolling. We will experiment with different mark-making techniques and have a go at printing with our fingers and hands. We will look at the artist Andy Goldsworthy and explore using loose parts to create our art.



We will be engaging in imaginative role-play in the home-corner where we can act out familiar scenarios. The role-play area changes throughout the year depending on the interests of the children.



Music this half-term is all about making friends, turn-taking, sharing, working together, and building confidence and unity with our new friends. We will do this through singing, chanting and experimentation with percussion instruments.

Request for Donations and the Early Years Fund

We constantly strive to improve our learning environment to make it more engaging and exciting for our children. We would be grateful for donations of any of the following that you may have and no longer need:

- Bags of sand
- Marbles
- Bags of Soil
- Bags of Stones
- Out of date pasta, rice, flour etc… for playdough and sensory play



While being voluntary, the Early Years Fund is much appreciated. From it we buy lots of little extras such as ingredients for making play dough, crafts and cooking activities. It is £7.00 each term. Payments can be made electronically through the School Gateway. If you need help with setting up this app, please speak to somebody in the office.