

Hello and a very warm welcome to the Robins' Class! Throughout the year your children will be developing their skills and knowledge in the seven areas of learning listed below and through a range of different topics.

After our initial settling period we will be beginning this half-term's topic, 'Bears and familiar stories'. Throughout the topic we will be planning lots of exciting and practical experiences to help your children learn in a stimulating and fun way.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will begin by focusing on ensuring children are settled and happy at school. We will also be constantly encouraging your children to develop their confidence and resilience by entering the classroom and sorting their coat and bag independently. We are also reinforcing the importance of following routines and rules so that they can get along with other children and adults and feel happy and secure at school. Through the stories that we read and our PSHE circle times, we will also be teaching the children how to talk about their own and other people's emotions.

Communication and Language

As well as introducing new vocabulary to the children we will be teaching them how to listen attentively to others and to express their own ideas clearly and in full sentences. We will encourage your children to listen to stories and ask questions about them. You will also have the opportunity to do this using your child's reading book. **To help develop your child's language skills, please encourage your children to speak in full sentences at home – don't just accept one-word answers!**

Physical Development

As well as having a weekly PE lesson (to start later this half term), all the children have daily access to our outdoor learning area, where they can explore and practise different ways of travelling safely and with control. Also, all the children take part in Dough Gym and Funky Fingers sessions where we target the development of their fine motor skills to the accompaniment of lively music. We encourage the children to become increasingly independent in undressing and dressing themselves for PE, putting on their own coats, aprons etc. **Please support us in this by encouraging your child to have a go at it by themselves at home and when they arrive at and leave school.** It pays off in the end!

Literacy

All the children will take part in a daily phonics lesson where, to begin with, we will be recapping and focusing on distinguishing between different sounds, rhyme and recognising sounds in spoken words – also known as oral blending. We will then move on to learn about the different letters and sounds as well as what they look like and how to recognise them.

We will then begin to combine those sounds to help the children to read and spell simple words.

We will also be sharing a range of bear-themed stories with the children, encouraging them to join in with us while we are reading, talk about the stories with understanding, retell the stories in a variety of ways and take part in early reading and writing activities. Some of the stories we will be enjoying include 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'.

Maths

Our main focus this term is to help the children begin to develop an in depth understanding of the numbers 1 – 10. We do this in a variety of practical ways such as by:

- Matching numerals to quantities
- Subitising – recognising the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them
- Looking at composition of numbers – understanding that numbers can be made up of 2 or more smaller numbers and recognising some of the addition sentences for this. For example, children may know that you can make 4 by adding $2 + 2$ or $3 + 1$.

Within Continuous Provision, the children will also have ample opportunity to explore 2D and 3D shapes, to measure and compare lengths and capacities and develop their understanding of time and days of the week.

Understanding the World

As the children learn about the people in Kipper's family (in the Oxford Reading Tree stories) they will also begin to talk about the people in their own families and learn that not all families are the same. They will look at old photographs of themselves and their families to help them to understand the past. The children will also have opportunities to develop their curiosity and observational skills linked to changes and seasons during Autumn and at Harvest. We also use the many celebrations within Autumn Term such as Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah to teach the children about different people, cultures and communities.

Expressive Arts and Design

Where do we begin?! Amongst many other things your children will be colour mixing, printing, weaving, making music and singing and dancing.