

Your Team

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Teacher: Mrs Nixon

Teaching assistant across the week: Mrs Green,
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Communication and Language

Our aim this half term is to ensure that the children feel settled, happy and secure in their new school and community. We want the children to feel confident and comfortable sharing their thoughts, feelings and ideas as they become familiar with their new environment. During our daily story time, we will share stories about starting school. The children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences and discuss what they have enjoyed or found difficult about starting school. There will be lots of opportunities to make new friends and develop their speaking and listening skills through play and exploration. The children will be encouraged to explore their new environment, build relationships and develop confidence as they settle into school.

[Talk to your child about their day and encourage them to tell you about things they have seen, done or enjoyed.](#)
[Share stories and books together and ask questions about what is happening in the pictures or story.](#)
[Encourage your child to learn and use new words by talking about what you are doing during everyday activities.](#)
[Give your child plenty of time to listen, respond and express their ideas, feelings and opinions.](#)

Autumn



We would like to start by warmly welcoming you, your family, and especially your child to Trinity and St. Michael's Primary School. At the start of each term, you will receive a curriculum letter which will provide you with an overview of your child's learning across the seven areas of the Early Years Curriculum. Our theme this term is 'Ourselves'. We have also included some simple ways in which you can support your child's learning and development at home. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything, please don't hesitate to contact the class via email or ring the school to arrange a convenient time to speak. We look forward to working together with you and supporting your child as they settle into school and begin their learning journey with us.



RE

Through stories, discussions, activities and play, we will celebrate what makes each of us unique and special. We will explore how we can show kindness, friendship, thankfulness and love to the people around us. As we learn about the Harvest, we will explore the importance of giving and receiving and reflect on the many things we are thankful for. We will think about our loved ones and the people who help, care and support us each day.

Literacy Mark-making

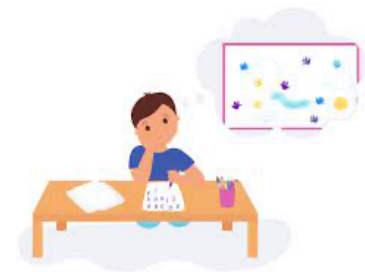
We will be practising our mark-making skills through lots of fun games and activities, such as 'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle'. These activities will help the children to develop their pencil grip, hand strength and control as they learn to move their pencils in different ways. We will encourage the children to use their imagination when drawing and making marks, and to talk about what they have created. The children will begin to understand that the marks they make can have meaning and can be used to communicate their thoughts and ideas.

[Encourage your child to draw pictures and practise writing their name. Invite them to bring their work into school to share with the class.](#)

Phonics

A daily phonics lesson will be taught, where a new letter sound will be revealed each day. The children will learn the sound, practise how to write the corresponding letter and explore words that begin with it. They will then begin to learn how to blend sounds together to read simple words.

[Keep an eye out for the sounds we have learnt on the weekly phonic sheet that is sent home on a Friday.](#)



[Please keep checking the school's newsletter for details about our parent phonics workshop.](#)

Physical Development

The children will take part in lots of fun fine motor activities to help strengthen the muscles in their hands and fingers. These activities will help them to develop the strength, coordination and control needed when using pencils and other one-handed tools.

Activities will include, using tweezers to pick up pom-poms, threading, scissors skills, painting and having lots of fun at our Dough Disco - complete with disco lights! Outside, we will develop our gross motor skills through a range of activities, including building with big blocks, riding balance bikes, digging in the mud kitchen, creating obstacle courses and playing on the climbing frame. These activities will help the children to develop their balance, coordination, strength and confidence when moving and exploring outdoors.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Developing positive relationships and friendships will be an important part of settling in. Through play, games and discussions, the children will learn to share, take turns and work cooperatively with others. They will also explore their own feelings and begin to recognise and understand how others may be feeling. The children will learn about classroom rules and why they are important, while developing positive behaviours and taking on simple responsibilities. Becoming more independent will also be encouraged, including organising their belongings each morning and managing their own personal hygiene, such as washing their hands.



Expressive Arts and Design

Our creative area will offer the children the chance to use a range of materials, mediums and tools to create their own masterpieces - from painting to junk modelling.

This term we will be looking at the artist Andy Goldsworthy. The children will explore his artwork and then have a go at creating their own.

There will also be lots of opportunities to use their imaginations through role play and small-world play. The children will enjoy creating their own stories, dressing up and acting out different characters and experiences. These activities will help the children to build their confidence, develop their communication skills and express their creativity.

Understanding the world

Our learning will begin by exploring ourselves, our families and our classroom, helping the children to develop a sense of belonging and understand what makes each of us unique. We will explore birthdays and family life, sharing our experiences and learning about the people who are important to us. We will also discover the different people who help us, both in our school and in the wider community. As Autumn arrives, we will observe the changes happening in the natural world and explore the season around us. We will also learn about Harvest, discovering its meaning and exploring the importance of sharing, helping others and being thankful for the people and things we have.

Please could you send in a photograph of your family for your child to share and discuss with the class.



Maths

Settling into our classroom routines will provide lots of opportunities to explore the different areas of provision, both indoors and outdoors, while developing mathematical understanding through play. We will explore where things belong, learn about key times of the day and begin to use positional language such as in, on, under, next to and behind. Counting will be developed through songs, rhymes and practical activities, including counting objects, actions and sounds. We will explore matching and sorting objects by colour, size and shape, as well as comparing amounts using words such as more, fewer and the same. There will also be opportunities to explore size, mass and capacity and create and continue simple patterns.

You can support your child at home by counting at every opportunity! Count the stairs as you walk down them, how many jumps you can do in a row or ask your child to help count out ingredients for a recipe.



Outdoors

We will spend lots of time learning and exploring outdoors, whatever the weather! On sunny days, please make sure your child arrives with a sun hat and has sun cream applied before coming to school. As the weather becomes cooler, your child will need to bring a named waterproof coat.

All children will need a pair of named wellington boots, which will stay in school and be used throughout the year.

PE

During PE the children will learn what a PE lesson consists of and play a variety of simple games which include fundamental movements such as jumping, skipping, hopping and running.