Communication and Language

As the children start school they will be joining in with rhymes and stories with repeated patterns. Re-telling stories and making up their own narratives will be developed, particularly through play. The children will also be encouraged to engage in conversation to make new friends and give and receive information by taking turns in those conversations. Listening carefully and why listening is so important will be modelled and taught as well as new vocabulary being acquired and applied in the correct context.

Literacy

We will follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme from Week 2, which will introduce a new phoneme each day. These sessions will be supported with Guided Reading 3 times per week in school and their reading book will be taken home to share each Friday together with a library book. Reading is a key area and we encourage the children to enjoy books and share lots of stories both at home and at school. We aim to foster a life-long love of learning through Reading for Pleasure. Writing starts with mark making and opportunities to experiment and practise around in all areas of learning. Some children will use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing and learn to hold their pencil correctly. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy or writing some or all of their name. We will also have different key texts which we focus of for two weeks. These will support our writing and development of vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children settle into Reception, we will focus on learning school and classroom routines and developing independence. Children will learn to manage their personal belongings, follow familiar routines and look after themselves and their learning environment. We will then think about 'Being Me in My World', exploring what it means to belong and recognising similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Children will learn to recognise and manage their feelings, use kind words, develop friendships, share, take turns and work as a team. We want every child to recognise that they are a valued and important member of our Reception community.

Understanding the World

We begin by thinking about our own family. We ask each child to bring in a photographs so they can comment on their family; naming who they can see and of what relation they are to them. Discussions will be encouraged about what they do with their family and places they have been. Can they draw similarities and make comparisons between their family and others?

The children will start to feel more familiar with the EYFS area and navigate around our classroom and outdoor areas. We talk about birthday celebrations and what memories they have of their own birthdays and those of others in their family.

Donaldson and Jeffers

EYFS: Autumn Term 1

All About Me

'All About Me' is our first topic where the children share facts about themselves, their families and the people who are important to them. We take time to plan settling-in activities that help children to feel safe, happy and confident in their new environment and supporting new friendships to develop.

Children are encouraged to talk about experiences that are familiar to them, including their homes, families, favourite things, special memories and celebrations. We explore what makes each of us unique and help children recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. Children begin to develop a positive sense of themselves and learn that everyone is special and valued.

Throughout the topic, we explore our bodies and senses, talk about our feelings and learn how to recognise and express different emotions. Children think about what makes them happy, worried, excited or proud and begin to learn ways to manage their feelings and support their own wellbeing.

We encourage children to talk about their interests and passions and about the things they would like to learn, achieve or become. Through stories, conversations, play, creative activities and first-hand experiences, children develop their confidence, vocabulary, communication skills and understanding of the world around them.

Physical Development

Fine Motor Activities

Throughout the year, children will constantly be involved in activities using their fine motor skills to strengthen and refine them. They will start to hold a pencil to mark make and use the correct pencil grip. Plenty of other activities such as using a paintbrush, a pair of scissors and tweezers all work together to develop fine motor skills.

Gross Motor Activities

The children will be encouraged to use the outdoor area which is great for improving their gross motor skills. Activities such as using large paint brushes and chalks for large scale mark making will be the norm. Different ways of moving will be explored with the children, alongside parachute games and climbing on our outdoor equipment. Our ride on toys are always popular and strengthen a variety of muscles.

Regular reminders about thorough handwashing and toileting will be made throughout this term. Putting on their own coat and taking shoes on and off independently will also be promoted.

Expressive Arts and Design

Joining in with action rhymes, songs and learning familiar lyrics will become part of our daily routine. We will sing call-and-response songs to help commit new learning to memory as well as exploring sounds and how they can be changed. Our outdoor stage and instruments allow the children to express themselves as musicians. Our home corner is set up to allow children to reenact familiar scenarios and role play based on their own experiences.

In the construction area the children will have a range of construction kits available for them to build their own models and creations. Junk modelling is always a popular activity through which children can express themselves in a wide range of ways.

One of the first activities the children will be invited to have a go at is painting their self-portrait which will inevitably

Mathematical Development

As we get to know the children there will be opportunities to explore Maths all around our learning environment. There will also be key times of the day when we come together for a focused Maths input. There will be lots of fun ways to learn such as singing, counting songs and playing counting games. The children will start to match and sort objects before moving on to comparing amounts, size, mass and capacity. There will be lots of opportunity to explore pattern by spotting it in the environment, continuing a pattern and becoming independent in creating 2 and 3 way repeating patterns.