

**Foundation Stage**  
**Foundation One**  
**Autumn Term 2017**

The children have settled into Foundation 1 after a staggered induction period and they are all happy in their new learning environment. This year we have eleven children who are attending full time in addition to the children who attend either a morning or afternoon session. The children have been bringing a packed lunch and the Foundation 1 staff provide a nurturing opportunity for the children to feel comfortable and confident to talk as they enjoy their lunch.



The children have been allocated a key person whose role it is to have daily contact with their group of children and to complete small group activities. This is helping to develop warm, close relationships between staff and children. The children have begun to make new friends and have become familiar with the pattern of the day.



During the first few weeks, adults completed observations of the children at play. This information has been used to inform the next steps in learning for the children. WellComm assessments have also informed staff of the language levels of the children, with some referrals being made to the speech therapist.

As the children settled into their new learning environment they enjoyed talking about their families. The children brought a photograph from home of their family and they were proudly displayed on the wall for everyone to see.

After half term the teachers brought some pumpkins with funny faces into the nursery. The children used 2D shapes to make their own pumpkin faces and they also painted pumpkins with orange paint, adding black faces to them. The children loved the song 'Five orange pumpkins at the farm shop' and joined in with the actions and words.

The children were so excited by Bonfire night! They couldn't wait to tell the teachers about the fireworks they had seen. The teachers harnessed the children's enthusiasm and provided lots of learning opportunities linked to fireworks. They sang songs, created firework pictures using 2 D shapes and glitter and they dressed up as firefighters and police officers in the role play area. The children also had a fire station to play with in the small world area and enjoyed pretending to come to the rescue.



The visit from the Life bus was also a new experience for the Foundation 1 children. They enjoyed going into the bus and learning all about keeping healthy. The teachers have built on the session that the children had and have explored how important it is to keep our bodies clean. The children loved bathing the dolls and making sure they were nice and clean! The children have also been taking part in regular exercise sessions called 'sticky kids' and love being active during these fun sessions.



## Foundation 2

Within the first three weeks of the year the Foundation 2 children were all in school. The staggered intake enabled the children to become familiar with staff and their new learning environment. NFER baseline and WellComm assessments were completed by staff, which helped to ensure that staff prepare for the children's next steps in learning.



We started the year finding out about everyone's special families and the children brought in photographs to talk about. They were eager to make a book about their family and share it with their friends. We talked about how we are all special but different from each other. We used mirrors to look at ourselves. First we mixed the right colour skin tone and painted the shape of our face with it. Then we added our features carefully using oil pastels. They are displayed in our classrooms for everyone to see.



We had a fabulous week learning all about the Hindu celebration, 'Diwali'. The children made salt dough divas and used lots of fabulous words to describe how the dough felt before and after cooking. The children then enjoyed decorating them with colourful paints and glitter. At the end of the week we turned out the lights in our classrooms and lit the divas and sang some Diwali songs. We pretended our role play

area was a house being prepared for the celebration. The children decorated the doorstep with rangoli patterns, pretended to make coconut sweets and other delicious treats and they also made Diwali cards for each other. During our Diwali themed week Foundation 2 had a visitor from Tesco who helped the children to make their own healthy Diwali snack which the children then sampled. Lots of the children were pleasantly surprised that they liked the taste and came back for seconds!



We have also been busy recycling old milk cartons in Foundation 2! We have used them as planters to plant our own daffodil bulbs. We have attached them to our railings and we will be watching them carefully over the coming weeks and months to see if we can see them growing. We hope that by the Spring we will have a beautiful array of yellow flowers.



The children listened to the story 'Pumpkin soup', and enjoyed taking on the roles of the different characters in our role play area. The story gave us lots of opportunities to talk about friendships and feelings and the children eagerly wrote messages for the duck from the other animals to tell him that they loved him and that they were sorry for being mean. The children made some great lists of the ingredients that they would need to make soup and they also made some cosy quilts in the workshop for the animals.

During the first few weeks of the term we held Welcome meetings for the parents followed by a 'stay and play' session and many parents enjoyed special time with their child. After half term we invited the parents to a phonics and reading workshop where the parents were able to find out about how we teach phonics and reading at school and how they can support their child at home.



We introduced them to our 'Jolly phonics key rings' and home-school reading diaries which the children have been taking home for a few weeks now. We are looking forward to welcoming the parents into school again in the next few weeks to find out about our supervised tooth brushing programme which we will be commencing very soon. The workshop will involve an informative session for parents about dental hygiene and healthy food choices followed by the opportunity to make a healthy snack with their children.



At the end of the session every child will receive a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste to take home.

Soon it will be time for the children to find out about Christmas and to join in with the Foundation 2 nativity play.

