

This half term, we will be welcoming our children back to school after the summer break by immersing ourselves in our topic, 'Marvellous Mel'. Inspired by the story 'The Colour Monster'. We will use this topic to help us get to know the children, build positive relationships and support them as they settle into school life. As always, we will follow and respond to the children's interests throughout the term, allowing these to help shape our learning and experiences.

Nursery Medium Term Plan – Autumn 1, 2026

This half term, we will...



Expressive Arts and Design

- Immerse ourselves in the topic through 'Story World' - Here, we will get to know the Colour Monster, and why he has all of these different emotions and how we can help him.
- Design our own box faces! Painting pictures of ourselves, exploring our facial features and how they might differ from others.
- Take part in weekly Music sessions with Mrs Wright.
- Create our very own Worry Monster sock puppet to use at home.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Focus on supporting children's play, taking part in meaningful conversations and embedding the school routine and expectations.
- Follow Jigsaw's programme of study (SMSC).
- Take part in twice daily carpet times to talk about the day's events and engage in groups discussions.
- Have dedicated time in our key worker groups with our key workers.



Communication and Language

- Enhance and expand children's vocabulary in the context of our topic through twice daily carpet times, story times and through play.
- Assess the children via WELLCOMM to understand individual children's speech, language and communication needs and share this information with parents.
- Begin daily Lola listening leopard games in our key worker groups to develop our listening and attention skills.

Physical Development

- Start to develop our fine and gross motor skills with a range of activities to help with our mark-making skills including, 'Squiggle While you Wiggle'.
- Take part in regular movements breaks throughout the day to keep our bodies moving and active!
- Give plenty of opportunities to move, stretch and balance in a variety of ways during learning time.

Marvellous Mel

Literacy

- Give plenty of opportunities for mark-making across the early years provision, both inside and outside using chalk, markers, paint and more!
- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.
- Read a wide range of stories, rhymes and poems about a range of topics and themes.
- Start to complete 'busy jobs' that might involve mark-making.

Understanding the World

- Explore our families - labelling photos of our families and compare different families and lifestyles.
- Explore different types of houses and where we live.
- Talk about and describe our emotions and when/why we might be feeling a certain way.

Mathematics

- Explore colours and recognising colours.
- Explore 2D shapes and explore vocabulary such as sides, corners, straight, flat and round.
- Take part in weekly 'Wholeness of Number' sessions.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are the ways in which children engage with other people and their environment. They underpin learning and development across all areas of the curriculum and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner; we plan to support these characteristics throughout our planning across the Early Years Foundation Stage.



In the Early Years Foundation Stage we have a play-based curriculum. We will continue to model to the children what 'good play' looks like and encourage them to engage in this with their peers. We learn through exploring and experimenting in the learning environment; our classrooms and our outdoor area.