

Spring term 1 2023

Themes we are covering this half term

Polar Regions



As the weather is a tad colder this time of year, we use it as a good opportunity to learning about the animals that live in these freezing conditions as well as thinking about the actual weather and snow and ice formations. The children always show great interest in ice and snow.

The Prehistoric'



We will be having lots of fun learning about dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are a favourite topic among many of the children, It is a good introduction to the history of the world



'Our Colourful World'

During this topic we will look at the colours of nature and the world around us.

Celebrations to be included



Chinese New Year

Sunday 22nd January
The Year of The Rabbit
The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

Childrens mental health awareness week

6th – 12th February
Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.



Valentine's Day

14th February

Books we will be Reading



'Mr Wolfs Pancakes'
Is a lovely book that ties in well with pancake day (Shrove Tuesday)
21st February

Brown Bear Brown Bear

Elmer the Elephant

Number Rhymes to sing at home

Ten in the Bed
Five little Monkeys
1,2,3,4,5

Groups and the staff Honey Bees

Supervisor – Joann Kelly, Vicky, Kelly

Bumble Bees

Supervisor – Kate Manjinder, Lianne, Anita, Kim, Hazel, Edith & Sukchan

Learner Bees

Supervisor – Michelle Suky, Serena, Eva, Sam

**Special Needs Lead
Coordinator**
Debbie
Manager -Tina
Deputy Manager-Laura

We are focusing on Physical Development In January

Physical Development is one of the seven areas of learning which make up our curriculum. It is during the early years that children's bodies and brains undergo huge changes, so it is extremely important that physical activity is planned for consistently. Physical activity helps build strong bones, muscles and heart as well as support healthy weight. We support physical development in all our activities every day. Small muscle control is developed through painting and drawing, while constructing with bricks and manipulating playdough and clay. We encourage the children to dress and undress themselves when changing into outdoor clothing and they gain control while cutting fruit for snack or buttering their toast or pouring their own drinks. Large muscle development is found in running, climbing, throwing and catching balls and in playing team and circle games. Building with large crates etc. is not only fun but good exercise. Through physical play other skills are learnt and encouraged, such as being social and taking turns and sharing. Spatial awareness while playing hide and seek, speed, while racing, weight, while lifting heavy blocks and lifting the watering can to water the plants, all develops muscle while having fun. Learning to interact with others, to become more confident and to share praise are all important life skills

developed while being physically active. Staff are always on hand to encourage perseverance and to join in their fun.

We are focusing on Maths Development In February

Mathematics is an important part of learning for all children in the early years. It is also one of the seven areas of learning we cover in the curriculum and planning at Busy Bees. We understand that it is essential for young children to receive a good grounding as is needed throughout their future schooling and life. Maths is not just about counting and number but also includes problem solving, measuring, understanding about shape and size and about developing knowledge about weight, time, speed and volume. We ensure that the environment in all classroom and outdoor space ensure that maths is all around the children all the time. We have fun while learning and ensure there is plenty of time spent repeating the new skills learnt. We include maths in our singing and story time. Number rhymes are an amazing way of teaching basic addition and subtraction. We weigh out ingredients for cooking and share the fruit and snack to ensure everyone has the same while learning about fractions. We use stop watches and timers to see how long it takes to run around tracks made in the outdoor space and measure and build using their knowledge of shape and space. The children are always happy to work together to develop new understanding by using their own individual skills and expertise.

Children enjoy trying out things for themselves and with support from interested staff are quickly able to problem solve and experiment. Talking among themselves, about how to do things, and what they are discovering, is an excellent skill, one that not only develops their maths knowledge, but social and communication as well. We enjoy finding new ways to ensure the children's maths abilities are stimulated and that they enjoy discovering how much they can do for themselves

Becoming School Ready

With only 2 terms left before some of the children will be moving on to school we thought you may like to know what skills we encourage in readiness for the transition. We support and encourage them to:

- Have good social skills where they enjoy being with others.
- cope emotionally with being separated from their parents/carers
- to be relatively independent in their own personal care.
- to have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn.

School Term Dates

SPRING HALF-TERM
13th February - 17th
February

EASTER HOLIDAYS
24th March – 14th April

SUMMER HALF-TERM
29th May- 2nd June

SUMMER HOLIDAYS
24th July – 4th September

Clothing

Please can you continue to send warm, waterproof clothing every day for outdoor play, but also remember we are still being asked to keep windows open for extra ventilation, so layers of warm clothes, for indoors is essential.

We can always take layers off if a child is too warm, but we can't put them on.

The weather is likely to remain cold over the next few months so we all need to be aware that children need more warmth while not running around, even when indoors. It's at times like this that it is easy for the body to cool. It is also worth making sure your child has a pair of warm comfy shoes or slippers for indoor play.

Sensory/Messy play

We encourage children to engage in all sorts of messy play experiences.

Sensory and Messy play is extremely important for children's development. It provides them with an exciting tactile and sensory experience that inspires their curiosity. Not only that but it allows them to explore the world around them, everyday objects, textures and noises.

Temperatures, smells and sounds.

As much as we encourage them to wear an apron sometimes they dive straight in and often get in a bit of a mess!!! For this reason make sure they wear clothing that you don't mind getting a little dirty with paint, glue, gloop, dirt etc

More information on sensory play can be found :

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/what-is-sensory-play/z6whxbk>

Staff development and training

Ofsted reg: **2633742**

Ofsted Complaints Number: **0300 123 4666**

Over the coming months the staff will continue to show their commitment in their own professional development.

First Aid Training



By the 5th February every member of the Busy Bee team will have been trained in Paediatric first aid. For several new staff members this will be their first time undertaking the statutory 12-hour paediatric first aid.

Kim - Bumble bees

Kelly- Honey Bees

Sam - Learner Bees

All have worked hard to achieve their level 2 qualification in Early years education, which they were awarded in December.

Hazel - Bumble Bees

Has achieved her level 3 qualification

Laura is undertaking a NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner

Joann and Hazel

Will be embarking on a new qualification to enhance their already vast knowledge of supporting children in all areas of learning and development. The development programme forms part of the government's Early Years Education Recovery Plan which aims to address the continued effects of the pandemic on young children.

Debbie

Has recently completed 3 days Portage training which is aimed at supporting children

with additional needs and their families.

Anita, Kim Kate, Hazel, Vicki, Manjinder

Have all been very lucky to have been given some training from Iggy. Who leads the Sustainable Early Years Music (SEYM) project. aimed at engaging children with complex needs. Following a child-centred approach, SEYM promotes and interprets music engagement as sensory, social, interactive, and expressive experience.

In the coming weeks all staff will be completing their safeguarding children training to ensure we keep all our children safe in education.

Finally.....

Busy Bees in on a mission to ensure we celebrate the cultural diversity of our children and families. To do this we are wanting to add items/objects and materials that reflect the different cultures of our in their home and surrounding community. I know it's a big ask but if you have any items that you think would be suitable for children and wish to donate them we would be truly grateful. We also welcome you as a family to educate us as practitioners on your celebrations.

Reporting Absences

Please call 0797117438 to report you childs absence. Or send a message bvia Blossom app. Funding cannot be claimed if your child is absent for 2 weeks or more with out reasonable explanation .