



Squirrel Class

All About Me
Autumn Term 1 2024



Personal, social and emotional development

In this half term we will be focusing on beginning to recognise basic emotions, such as happy and sad, through topic related stories; during bucket time and other adult led play activities. The children will also be encouraged to take turns with adult support when sharing resources or playing with peers.



Communication and language

In this area of learning we will be focusing on understanding visual and or auditory clues that suggest what might happen next to further develop the children's understanding of the daily routine, a story line or even how the season's change. The children will be supported verbally or by communication symbols to begin to understand 2 step sequences (e.g. 'now' 'next') and to begin to make a request verbally or via symbols.



Physical development

The children will be encouraged to look at themselves in mirrors and explore their facial features and body parts. They will be making self portraits and emotion faces using different materials (playdough, leaves, pompoms, yarn, etc) through sensory activities that will be encouraging the children to use finger isolation, grasping and releasing movements and active stretches in the upper limbs when reaching for those resources.



Maths

In maths the children will be encouraged to look at and notice some patterns in their close environment and to explore some basic 2D shapes. The children will be introduced to 'My mum and dad make me laugh' story that will support them with the understanding of some patterns and will be making their own pyjama designs using stamps. The children will also be encouraged to sort shapes that are the same and try to follow a given pattern.



Literacy

In literacy the children will be listening to a range of environmental sounds during adult led sensory activities to support their understanding of the world around them and to be able to que in more with their surroundings with the help of auditory and visual support. The children will also further practice sound recognition during Monster phonics activities. They will be introduced to topic related books and rhymes and will be experimenting with mark making using different media in different textures (e.g. pencil and paper, making mark in sand with a twig, apple stamping, etc).



Understanding the world

The children will be introduced to basic science, technology and biology via bucket time, during nature walks in the school grounds and adult led play activities. They will be encouraged to look at pictures of themselves, to look at themselves in mirrors and labelling different body parts and to begin to notice special features that make us different from others. The children will also be encouraged to notice some details in nature on our walks and to explore and talk about autumn produce such as pine cones, conkers and fallen leaves.



Expressive art and design

The children will continue to have the opportunity to take part in Move Momentum, a sensory music session where they are encouraged to respond to music via bodily movement. They also have the opportunity to explore different musical instruments during our weekly music lessons. In class and in our outdoor learning area they will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with different textures and materials when creating a piece of art. We will be using pine cones to create different patterns and effect with paint, will be making prints using apples and even some spices to create magical handprints.