

Welcome back

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas, are refreshed and ready for the Spring term. To our January starters – welcome! We are looking forward to continuing/developing our partnership with you over the coming weeks to support your child's education here at Griffin Nursery.

Session times

Morning session: **8:45am – 11:45am**

Afternoon session: **12:30pm – 3:30pm**

Please note: Nursery gates open at 3:20pm to allow parents/carers to collect and make your way around to collect from other year group exits if required.

Reading books

Due to the current national lockdown for the duration of this half term, we will be suspending our Bedtime Reading scheme and book bags will not be sent home. We have made this decision with a heavy heart but to ensure the safety of all staff and children. As an alternative, we will be uploading bedtime stories onto Tapestry for all children to enjoy. These stories will be linked to our current topic 'Once Upon a Time'.



Nursery Rhymes

Nursery rhymes are a great way to improve your child's communication and language skills - this is just one of the reasons we love to sing them throughout each session. Please keep a look out for our fortnightly TALK newsletter with a different focus nursery rhyme each time.

Labelling of clothes

Please ensure that your child's name is written in **ALL** their clothing, including shoes, coats, bags and packed lunch boxes so they can be returned to the correct child.

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Marvellous Me

Please continue to look out for messages from us on Marvellous Me. If you are not signed up to this yet, please let us know and we will be happy to help.

Clothing

As you know, here at Griffin Nursery, we love to use our outdoor area whatever the weather! Please send a hat and gloves and a warm coat now that the weather is becoming very cold.

Please ensure you have provide a change of clothing (uniform), including pants and socks/tights in your child's bag each day.

Current Topic

The children will be spending this half term focussing our learning based around our topic 'Once Upon a Time...' We will introduce the children to the traditional tales 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Three Little Pigs'.



Tapestry

We uploaded lots of amazing observations of the nursery children during last term and have loved seeing the activities they have been enjoying at home too. If you have not accessed your child's Tapestry account yet, please let us know and we will be happy to help!

Footwear

With the ever-changing weather, please provide a pair of wellies with your child's name clearly labelled for outdoor play. Children are welcome to keep wellington boots at nursery to save you bringing them each day. Your child must continue to come to school daily in their black school shoes. Velcro shoes are preferred.



Personal Social and Emotional Development

Your child will continue to develop new friendships and play with increasing confidence on their own or with other children.

They will continue learning to take turns sharing resources with their new friends.

Children will be increasingly able to talk about and manage their emotions in more elaborated ways such as "I'm sad because..." or "I love it when..."

They will select and use resources, with help when needed.

Understanding the World

Understanding the World is about how children get to know about other people, the place where they live and about all aspects of the environment.

Your child will talk about who is included in their family and the times they spend with them, including celebrations which are special to them. Children may start to notice differences and begin to ask questions.

Please send in a family photograph; we would love to display these in our home corner! Thank you to those who have sent one already.

Physical Development

Throughout Griffin's Early Years environment there are lots of opportunities for your child to develop these skills.

Your child will have access to the outdoors come rain or shine meaning they can strengthen their core and develop skills such as climbing, balancing, riding and large mark making.

Inside children will develop their fine motor skills through opportunities such as tweezer activities, threading, manipulating play dough, drawing, writing and snipping.

Literacy

Throughout the environment we have lots of opportunities for your child to develop their literacy skills. Children will join in with rhymes and songs, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo. They will have lots of opportunities to access fiction and non-fiction texts both independently and with an adult.

You can help at home by singing children's favourite songs and nursery rhymes and by introducing them to new ones!

Also, sharing books and talking about the pictures and words on the page. Find lots of different places to read books around your home e.g. build a den to read in!

Spring 1 – Nursery

Reading

At Griffin, we LOVE reading! We have daily story sessions in nursery. We strive to create a love of reading amongst our children.

Throughout the setting, there is a wide range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction for them to enjoy.

Don't forget to take advantage of our bedtime reading stories uploaded onto Tapestry!

Daily phonics sessions take place which teach children the skills that they need to enable them to read and write later on.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their creativity and imagination. Your child will have lots of opportunities to engage with the arts through playing and exploring with a wide range of media and materials.

Children will enjoy moving and dancing to music and will be able to express their ideas and feelings through making marks, often giving meanings to those marks.

They will develop their pretend play, using objects to represent their ideas.

Communication and Language

Communication and language is threaded throughout all other areas of learning. In partnership with parents/carers, we will provide lots of opportunities to support your child in their development. Children will listen to simple stories and understand what is happening with the use of pictures. They will understand simple questions about 'who', 'what' and 'where' and begin to use a wider range of vocabulary. You can help at home by engaging children in conversations and through asking them questions.

Mathematics

In maths we will continue to look at the numbers 1-5 to start with and being able to find 5 objects for example. The children will begin to compare amounts using language such as 'lots', 'more' or 'same'. Children will build with a range of resources and will begin to compare sizes, weights etc using language including 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.

You can help at home by continuing to sing counting songs and rhymes and by using the language of size and weight in everyday contexts.