



**Autumn Term 2013
Curriculum Newsletter
Willow Class**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our main focus this term is ensuring that all the children settle in happily.

Our planning is based on the months of the year and is also guided by the children's interests.

At Maple we recognise that children develop at their own rates, and in their own ways and we reflect this in our planning and teaching.



In the month of September we will be finding out about:

- Starting Nursery - making new friends, learning the rules and expectations and having lots of fun!
- Signs of Autumn
- Apples
- Harvest
- Tractors
- Plus, whatever the children show interest in!



In the month of October we will be finding out about:

- Scarecrows
- Pumpkins
- Hedgehogs
- Night time
- Weather
- Eid-ul-Adha
- Plus, anything else the children show interest in!



In the month of November we will be finding out about:

- Winter weather
- Mittens and gloves
- Fir cones
- Owls
- Diwali
- Patterns
- Hanukah
- Plus, whatever the children show interest in!



In the month of December we will be finding out about:

- Christmas
- Gingerbread
- Penguins and Polar Bears
- Igloos
- Reindeer
- Robins
- Plus, anything else the children show interest in!

Characteristics of Effective Learning

- **Playing and Exploring**
- **Active Learning and**
- **Creating and Thinking Critically**

All support children's learning across all areas.

There are seven areas of learning that we use to plan our activities, and these are:

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Making Relationships

- Interested in others' play and starting to join in.
- Seeks out others to share experiences.

Self-confidence and self-awareness

- Separates from main carer with support and encouragement.
- Expresses own preferences and interests.
- Can select and use activities and resources with help.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Seeks comfort from familiar adults.
- Can express their own feelings.

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Listening and attention

- Listens to others one to one or in small groups.
- Listens to stories with increasing attention.

Understanding

- Responds to simple instructions.

Speaking

- Uses simple sentences.
- Uses a variety of questions.
- Uses gestures, sometimes with limited talk.
- Learns new words very rapidly and is able to use them in communicating.
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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Moving and Handling

- Climbs confidently and is beginning to pull themselves up on play equipment.
- Shows control in holding and using jugs to pour.
- May be beginning to show preference for dominant hand.

Health and self-care

- Drinks well without spilling.
- Clearly communicates their need for toilet.
- Gains more bowel and bladder control and can attend to toileting needs most of the time themselves.
- Dresses with help.
- Can usually manage washing and drying hands.

LITERACY

Reading

- Looks at books independently.
- Handles books carefully.
- Holds books the correct way up and turns pages.

Writing

- Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint.

MATHEMATICS

Numbers

- Uses some number names and number language spontaneously.
- Uses some number names accurately in play.

Shape, space and measure

- Begins to use the language of size.
- Anticipates specific time-based events such as snack time or home time.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

People and Communities

- Beginning to have their own friends.

The world

- Enjoys playing with small-world models such as a farm, a garage, or a train track.

Technology

- Knows how to operate simple equipment.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Exploring and using media and materials

- Sings a few familiar songs.
- Explores the different sounds of instruments.
- Uses various construction materials.

Being imaginative

- Engages in imaginative role-play.