

Welcome to Portfields Foundation stage

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our families to Portfields Foundation Stage. We are really looking forward to the exciting year ahead. This half term is all about settling the children into school and helping them to feel happy, safe and confident in their new environment. We will begin our journey by playing and exploring, getting to know one another and discovering our new surroundings. We will support the children as they make new friends, develop positive relationships with other children and staff, and learn the school rules and routines.

This term, we will be exploring the following wonderful texts:

- *Whiffy Wilson*
- *I Am Going to Make a Friend*
- *The Gruffalo*
- *Kipper's Birthday*
- *The Leaf Thief*
- *Meg and Mog*

We are excited to share this special first term with the children and look forward to seeing them grow, learn and flourish throughout the year.

Communication & Language

In Communication and Language, we will develop our listening, attention, understanding and speaking skills. We will be supported over the first half term to begin to build positive relationships with others and we will learn how to introduce ourselves to our new peers and teachers. We will learn to follow instructions through silent signals. We will each have the opportunity to do our 'Magnificent Me' show and tell. We will share some information about ourselves and we can even bring our favourite book to school to share with our class.

How can I support at home?

Talk to your child positively about their school day. Ask your child questions about their learning and encourage them to answer in full sentences. Model language to your child whereby you provide opportunities to upskill their language by adding an adjective, synonym, antonym or action word.

Add an adjective:

Child: 'It's a tower.' **Adult:** 'It's a tall, blue tower.'

Use a synonym:

Child: 'It is big.' **Adult:** 'Yes, it's huge.'

Use an antonym:

Child: 'It is big.' **Adult:** 'It is big! It's definitely not small.'

Add an action word:

Child: 'A car.' **Adult:** 'Go car! Beep car'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In PSSED, we will develop our skills in self-regulation, managing self and building relationships. We will begin to talk about our own likes and dislikes and with the support of an adult, we will try new activities. We will learn our school and classroom rules and we will try our best to begin to follow them. We will all share the responsibility of tidying our classroom and the shared areas. Each week we will have a different manners focus and we will learn new social skills.

How can I support at home?

At school we will use the phrase 'Choose it, use it, put it away'. You could replicate this language at home. Please see our PSSED/Manners curriculum on the website for our weekly focus.

Physical Development

In PD, we will develop our gross motor and fine motor skills. We will start to use three fingers to grip a pencil and learn how to hold and transport scissors safely. We will be introduced to PE and we will learn a variety of different ways to move. We will begin to learn how to take turns.

How can I support at home?

Encourage your child to hold their pencil using three fingers. Allow your child to use child appropriate scissors to begin to attempt to cut paper. Remind your child how to hold their scissor safely.



Literacy

In literacy, we will begin to develop our phonic knowledge through the Read Write Inc. programme. We will learn to read the following individual graphemes: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e. We will begin to hear initial sounds in words and to blend sounds into words orally. We will attempt to write the taught graphemes with the correct formation: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e.

How can I support at home?

Use your Set 1 Speed Sounds Book to consolidate phonics daily. Read to your child every night. Play literacy themed games. E.g. I spy a c-a-t. Encourage your child to write their name, sounds that they have learned etc.

Mathematics

In maths, we will recite lots of counting rhymes and songs. Our first maths topic will be match, sort & compare. We will learn to: match pictures and objects, identify a set, sort objects to a set, explore sorting techniques, create sorting rules and compare amounts. We will then begin to talk about measure and patterns and we will: compare size, compare mass, compare capacity, explore simple patterns, copy and continue simple patterns and create our own simple patterns.

How can I support at home?

Give your child opportunities to match and sort objects at home. Discuss and create sorting rules for the objects that you have collected. Talk about the difference in size, mass or capacity of objects. Show your child a repeating pattern and follow them to continue it or find the mistake in it.

Understanding the World

Religion

In Religion, we will begin by discussing what religion is. We will have opportunities to talk about the important people in our lives and learn about the people, things and places that are important to our peers. This will help us to develop an understanding and respect for the beliefs, experiences and backgrounds of others.

Science

In Science, we will be learning about touch and magnets. We will explore torches and investigate how magnets work through practical activities and experiments.

Geography

In Geography, we will begin to learn about maps. We will explore what maps are, what they show us and how they can help us to find and understand different places.

Expressive Art & Design

In Art, we will begin to select art resources for a purpose. We will use our selected materials to make our own creations. We will look carefully at our own facial features and then select the most appropriate resources to create self-portraits. Piet Mondrain is the artist that we will learn about this half term. In music, we will explore sound through our voice, body and instruments.



Additional Information

For more year group information, please visit the class pages on our website.

<https://www.portfieldsprimaryschool.org/children/class-pages>