

Welcome to the start of the autumn term at Little Willows Nursery

It has been wonderful to see the children's *confidence* and friendships growing over the past few weeks. They all seem settled, happy, very chatty and have lots of ideas to share.

Thank you so much for your support in providing the children with their family photographs. They are displayed within the classroom and are a great prompt for conversation.

We do spend a lot of time outdoors every day and in all weathers, please ensure that your child has a named pair of wellies and an all-in-one puddle suit in school every day.

If you have any questions then please feel free to email the school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING CONSIDERATION*

We will be familiarising ourselves with our new learning environments and the adults that help us. We will be using the children's interests as the basis of our continuous provision to aid them in their transition. We will be supporting children to become increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g., using the toilet, washing and drying hands thoroughly.

During our theme of 'Only One You' we will be talking about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

How can you help: Play a game of 'Guess Who?' describe someone and see if your child can guess who it is. Have a look at photographs showing your child as a baby up to today and look at how they have changed.

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE-*INSPIRING CREATIVITY*

We will be practising our listening skills - listening to familiar sounds; identifying the first sounds in our names and playing games of I spy objects beginning with....

We will be singing and saying rhymes and songs such as 'If you're Happy and You Know it', 'Simon Says', 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. We will be learning new vocabulary related to our bodies.

How you can help: Read stories with your child which gradually increase in length. Can your child tell you something about the story? Listen for sounds in the environment, can your child tell you what it is?

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING COLLABORATION*

We provide daily opportunities for children to practise and refine their fine and gross motor skills both indoors and out. Our dough disco sessions form part of this provision. A dough disco session is essentially a workout with dough for developing upper arm and finger strength. We will also be looking closely at children's stages of 'grip' and thinking about the types of activities that we provide to enable the children to progress to the next stage of their development.

How you can help.... Encourage your child's finger grip by manoeuvring tiny objects; popping bubble wrap between thumbs and fore fingers; threading cheerios onto string to make a birdfeeder for the garden; pressing wet sponges between the palms of our hands. Have a go at opening the fastening on your shoes and taking them off and putting them back on.

LITERACY-*INSPIRING COMMUNICATION*

We will be experimenting with lots of different mark-making materials and surfaces. We will encourage children to create different lines and to draw around each other with chalk outdoors.

We will talk about how different people are unique and have likes and dislikes and ask children to say what is special about them and scribe their responses. We will be sharing a wealth of books based on our theme of 'Only One You' such as: Monkey Puzzle, Peace at Last, Titch, Stick Man, Funny Bones, Marvellous Me, Kindness is my Superpower, Super Duper You.

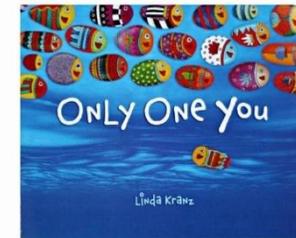
How you can help: Practise drawing lines or letters from your name in gloop, shaving foam, hair gel or mud. Share lots of stories and talk together about the illustrations, their favourite picture or ask your child to spy something beginning with...

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT-*INSPIRING COMMITMENT*

We will be looking at recognising amounts of objects, saying and reading numbers, developing 1 to 1 correspondence when counting objects and practising sorting and grouping objects by type and size. We are also building our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes. We will make class pictograms of our hair and eye colours and count how many features that we have whilst playing a game of 'Mr Potato Head'.

How you can help: Please say/sing number rhymes at home with your child; play 'I Spy a number or shape' when you are out for a walk; practise saying numbers in order as you climb up/down the stairs.

LITTLE WILLOWS Nursery



EXPRESSIVE ART & DESIGN- *INSPIRING CREATIVITY & CRAFTSMANSHIP*

We will be listening to different types of music and will ask children how this makes them feel. We will be using loose parts to build representations of their face and skeleton. We will explore a range of materials including brush and crayon, pen drawing and will experiment with mixing paint to create different tones.

How can you help: Create a funny face at home, take a look at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/feeling-better-funny-faces> or make some sensory spice paint (just add cinnamon, cardamon, paprika to some paint!)

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD- *INSPIRING CURIOSITY*

We will be finding out about the bones that form our skeleton and will explore our senses. We will look at maps of the world/UK and see if we can find where in the world we live? We will use construction materials to create models of their homes and to build some of the landmarks in Woodbridge.

How can you help: Can you find different textures in your home or garden? Can you create sensory water to explore by adding rosemary or lavender to the water?