

*LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR EACH OTHER  
LOVE FOR LEARNING*

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Dear families of Preschool

January 2025

Welcome back to the new term here at Manor Park First School and a very warm welcome to our new families. We hope you have all had a lovely break and are ready to get back to Preschool. Here is some information to outline what your child will be learning this half term in all the different curriculum areas. Do encourage your child to tell you about what they have been learning at school – it really helps them to secure their learning when they discuss it with others.

In **communication and language** (including **reading** and **writing**) We will be focusing on three 'superhero' themed texts.



We will be learning to:

Listen to stories with an increased amount of focus and use vocabulary from our focus texts in our own play.

Be able to answer 'who' 'what' and 'where' questions linked to our focus texts.

Develop our mark making skills with a focus on making a range of marks (circles, waves, zigzags, straight lines) to help support being able to create letter shapes.

In **Physical development** we are learning to:



Develop gross motor control by balancing, running and stopping, hopping, skipping and changing direction.

Continue to develop independence skills - for example putting on their own shoes and coats.

Develop knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy by recapping how to clean and look after their teeth, healthy foods and the importance of exercise.

To support fine motor skills, they will:

- Develop manipulation and control by taking part in a range of activities such as playdough, tweezers and cutting skills.
- Take part in daily movement and continue to follow 'Squiggle whilst you wiggle' which focuses on developing gross and fine motor skills through movement and mark making.

Give meaning to the marks that we make, for example saying "I am writing a card for Grandma."

To be able to listen to a friend in a small group or one to one and be able to respond to them.

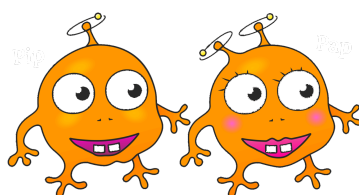
To be able to listen and follow two part instructions.

To be able to understand the five key concepts about print:

- Print has meaning
- The names of different parts of a book
- Print can have different purposes
- Page sequencing
- We read English text from left to right and from top to bottom.

To be able to hear rhymes and suggest rhymes.

Our Pine Cone children will be able to find their name card and begin to write some of the letters in their name (if not all of them). Our Acorn children are beginning to be able to recognise their name.



### Phonics

Our Pine Cone children will take part in our Pip and Pap daily phonic activities which will help to develop their phonological awareness by spotting and suggesting rhymes, counting and/or clapping syllables in words, hearing the initial sounds in words and being able to identify words which have the same initial sound.



In **Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** we are learning to:

Talk to others to help resolve any conflicts, be able to identify a range of emotions and talk about our feelings and play collaboratively with friends.

In **Mathematics** we are learning to:



Our Acorn children (those who are not due to start school in the next academic year) will be counting in everyday contexts. For example: *How many children are in our small group today?* They will begin to use their number fingers to 5 and react to changes of amounts.

We will continue to follow our Jigsaw scheme as well as working with your children daily to help to support and develop their PSED skills.

Our Jigsaw focus is 'Dreams and Goals'

We will discuss challenges and what children need to do in order to overcome them (resilience) and discuss how we might set ourselves new goals and go about achieving these.

We will continue to develop the children's understanding of our school mission which is **Love for God, Love for Each Other and Love for Learning.**

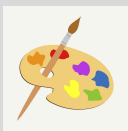
They may recognise numbers of personal significance, e.g. "I am 2, I am 3."

They will begin to organise groups into shape, colour and size and begin to understand positional language, e.g. *in front of*.

They will begin to notice different patterns and talk about them.

Our Pine Cone children (those children who are due to start school in the next academic year) will continue their learning around subitising to 5 (this is where we can look at a small group of objects and say how many we can see without having to count them). They will learn about numbers 3, 4 and 5 and the composition of these (how they are made). They will learn about shapes.

In **Expressive Arts** we are learning to:



Explore our voices and the different sounds that we can make, e.g loud and quiet.

Manipulate and play with a range of tools and materials, e.g. scissors, rolling pins.

Make marks intentionally and give meaning to these marks.

Explore paint and how it can be mixed to create different shapes and colours.

Our Pine Cone children will draw with increasing complexity and detail, for example, adding fingers to hands.

In **Understanding the World** we are learning to:



Talk about the differences between materials and the changes they notice.

Notice differences between people and the celebrations that we have.

Respect and care for the natural environment. Look after plants and observe how they grow and what we need to do in order to take care of them.

Show an interest in different occupations, for example farmers.

Learn about the season of winter.

In **RE** we will focus our learning around the question:

**How can we help others when they need it?**

We will:

- Recognise one of the big stories/concepts of the Bible.
- Identify one type of text from the Bible.
- Know that they have choices in their life.
- Know that their actions affect others.
- Recognise and name some religious artefacts, places and practices.

### **Additional class information:**

#### PE days

PE days will now be on a Monday and a Wednesday. Please ensure that your child comes into Preschool wearing blue jogging bottoms or leggings, a white t-shirt and their blue school jumper or cardigan. Please also ensure that they are wearing trainers.

#### Library books

We will continue to change your child's library book every week. If your child is in Preschool on a Tuesday please ensure that their library book is in their bag ready to change. If they are not in on a Tuesday, we will change it the next day that they are in. Thank you.

#### Tapestry/Parent Hub

Please continue to check Tapestry and Parent Hub regularly for any updates. If you are having any problems accessing these, please speak to a member of the team. Please ensure that you have downloaded both apps.

#### Dates for the diary

**14th January at 9am** - we will be holding a communication and language workshop in our school hall followed by an opportunity for you to spend time with your child in their classroom taking part in a range of activities.

**15th January** - if your child is due to start school in September 2025, today is the deadline for their school application. Please apply via:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time>

**13th February** - trip to Dorchester library

**14th February** - last day of term

**24th February** - return to school

#### Reminders

Coats, hats, etc- please ensure that your child comes into Preschool with warm clothes. We are a free flow setting so will continue to use our outside areas whatever the weather.

If your child does not have a pair of wellies or waterproof trousers/suit in Preschool please can we ask that you provide these, thank you.

Water bottles- please ensure that there is water only in these. If you would like your child to have juice, this can go into their lunchbox as a lunchtime drink.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home:

We will continue to use Tapestry to share ideas on how you can support your child at home. Here are an additional few ideas.....

**Read** stories to them daily with a focus on explaining new words/vocabulary

Opportunities to **explore** the world around them, for example local walks

Trips to the library, museums etc to **enhance** their experiences and learning

Playing games with a focus on **turn taking** (and not always winning!)

Developing their **independence**- putting on their shoes and coats by themselves. Toileting- if your child is wearing nappies is it now the time to start toilet training? Asking them to complete small jobs around your home- e.g. making their bed or helping to set the dinner table.

**Nursery rhymes**- continue to sing and teach your child new nursery rhymes. Research shows that if a child knows eight or more nursery rhymes by the time they are four years old, they will be one of the best readers and writers in the class by the age of eight!

We look forward to a fantastic half term!

Mrs Gillott and the Preschool Team