



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter outlines the curriculum for Nursery and Reception for this term. For the summer term our topic will be transport, which will also encompass topics such as People Who Help Us and Our Local Area. Although we have topics and activities planned, much of the learning in Early Years is child-led. This means we are able to link the learning to the children's current interests as well as anything else that might be happening in their lives or in the wider community. As such there may be things that we learn about over the coming weeks that have not been detailed in this letter, as the topics will be generated by the children. We will then teach the Early Years learning objectives through these topics.



We will continue to develop our **Communication and Language** through weekly Circle Time, Show and Tell, and a range of activities that support speaking and listening. Children will have lots of opportunities during their child-initiated play to develop their communication skills, for example, during role-play or shared games. We will be developing our understanding of 'how' and 'why' questions in responses to stories and our own experiences and will also be developing our skills of giving and following instructions. We will develop our speaking skills by thinking about our listener, increasing our vocabulary and using different tenses appropriately when talking about the past, present and future.

In **Physical Development** we will continue to develop our gross motor skills through child-initiated activities and through our weekly P.E. lessons. In the first half term we will be learning the country dances for May Day Celebrations before developing our skills in Athletics in preparation for Sports Day. In the second half term we will be enjoying Karate lessons for our 'WOW P.E.' To develop fine motor skills we will continue our regular morning activities called 'Busy Fingers' which concentrates on these skills. There are also opportunities through other activities in child-initiated play to improve on these skills. We will use our developing physical skills to use different materials to make a wide range of vehicles, including constructing on a large scale. We will continue to develop our understanding of health and self-care as we learn about road safety and how to keep safe on other types of vehicles, such as boats. We will also continue to develop our understanding of the importance of healthy eating and exercise.

We will continue to develop our **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** through adult-led and child-initiated activities. During weekly Circle Time we will discuss our school values and other issues of social and emotional development and we will develop skills of sharing, kindness and understanding. Reception children will develop their skills of teamwork and communication through regular 'Team Challenge' activities. In the second half term we will also prepare the children for the next stage of their learning as they get ready to move up to Reception or Year 1.

In **Literacy** we will be developing our reading and writing through regular phonics sessions and many varied opportunities for reading and writing during child-initiated play. We will explore a wide range of books including traditional stories, stories from other cultures and books linked to transport, both fiction and non-fiction. Reception will



continue to have adult-led sessions with a writing focus where we will develop skills such as sentence structure, using interesting vocabulary and use of punctuation. We will also continue to develop the tools needed for writing such as pencil control and letter formation. As the children's writing skills develop we will begin to write more imaginative pieces, such as stories about where we might travel on a magic carpet or on a train ride.

In **Mathematics** we will continue to develop our counting and calculating skills as well as having a variety of opportunities for problem solving and mathematical investigation. In the first half term we will learn about doubling, halving and sharing as well as developing fast recall of number facts such as number bonds. In the second half term we will learn about money and time as well as applying the knowledge we have developed over the year to solve a range of mathematical problems. We will also be practising accurate formation of numbers. Children will have many opportunities to develop their mathematical skills through a variety of activities in child-initiated play.

Our **Understanding the World** knowledge and skills will be developed in the first half term as we learn about rescue vehicles and people who help us including doctors, firefighters and the police. This links to our R.E. unit on Special People which includes learning about people who are special within a religious group. We will explore different materials when making vehicles and test their properties, for example, whether they are waterproof or whether they float or sink. We will also be exploring rockets and moon buggies as we



explore outer space! In the second half term we will learn about our local area, including how we travel to school and different types of transport we might see around Great Gaddesden. We will also learn about different types of transport in other countries and what kind of transport might be used to travel to different parts of the world. We will learn about how transport has changed over time and will be visiting Bucks Railway Centre to learn about the history of trains and ride on a real steam train! Our R.E. unit in the second half term will be Special Places, which links to our study of the local area. During the term we will be developing our understanding of technology as we use a range of technology in the classroom for a range of purposes, for example, taking photos using an iPad or using a computer to write a story. We will also use the roamers and iPad apps as we develop our understanding of programming.

We will further our learning of **Expressive Arts and Design** through a range of adult-led and child-initiated activities. We will use a variety of materials to build a range of models, developing our skills of planning and evaluating our work and will explore ways of making vehicles that can move. In the first half term we will also link our work on Special People to a study of famous artists such as Kandinsky and Pollock. We will explore some of their pieces of art and create some of our own in a similar style. In the second half term we will develop our drama skills as we act out familiar stories. In the first half term we will develop our understanding of music as we explore different instruments and how we can compose short pieces of music to fit a story or a theme. We will also listen and move expressively to some classical pieces of music. In the second half term we will learn about music and dance from around the world. Children will also have many opportunities to further their imaginative development through role play, small world play and other opportunities for imaginative play during child-initiated learning.

We are excited about the term ahead and are looking forward to developing skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries/questions about the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Ayres
EYFS Leader