



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Telephone 01442 255734

Headteacher: Mrs N. Comer
Great Gaddesden
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP1 3BT

Email head@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Thursday 7th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter outlines the curriculum for Nursery and Reception for this term. During the first half term our topic will be Food and in the second half term it will be India and Light & Dark. Although we have topics and some 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, such as moving house. 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.

To develop our **Communication and Language** we will be having 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. During our Food topic we will be talking about foods we like and don't like, following instructions and simple recipes, and sharing our thoughts about different types of food. In the second half term we will build on our skills of communication, listening to stories with increasing attention and recall and sharing our different opinions. We will learn about cultures different to our own and express our views on them.

In **Physical Development** we will be developing our multi skills in the first half term as we use equipment such as beanbags and balls. We will learn to move in different ways and change speed or direction to avoid obstacles. In the second half term our P.E will focus on dance. This links to our study of India as we will learn some Indian dances. To develop fine motor skills we will have regular morning activities called 'Busy Fingers' which concentrates on these skills. There are also opportunities through other activities and child-initiated play to improve on these skills. We will learn how to handle tools safely and effectively and will use a range of kitchen equipment when cooking during our Food topic. As we learn about



India, we will make and decorate Diva lamps, developing our skills in using malleable materials such as clay. We will also learn about the importance of a healthy diet in the first half term as we learn about Food.

Our **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** will be explored through adult led and child initiated activities as the children settle into their new class, learn the school and class routines and make friends. During weekly Circle Time we will discuss the school values and other issues of social and emotional development and we will develop skills of sharing, kindness and understanding. Children will develop their skills of working independently as they grow more confident in school and will learn ways to support their own learning, such as finding resources in the classroom to help them in their work and setting themselves challenges.

In **Literacy** we will be developing our reading and writing through regular phonics sessions and, for Reception, a weekly 'Talk for Writing' session. We will read lots of books around the topic of Food, for example, *Oliver's Vegetables*, and will talk about the ways stories are structured. We will learn about food from traditional stories and nursery rhymes, such as *Goldilocks* and *The Gingerbread Man*. In the second half term we will continue developing our reading and writing skills and will listen to stories from other cultures as we learn about India. Children will develop their skills in talking about books, such as expressing opinions or saying what they think might happen next. We will also learn about non-fiction books as we use these to learn more about India.



In **Mathematics** we will begin by focusing on counting, number recognition and simple calculations. We will learn about shapes as we talk about the shape of different foods and will also learn about money as we talk about the cost of food and buying food in shops. As we move into the second half term, we will be developing our mathematical skills and building on our knowledge of numbers. We will begin to explore addition and subtraction as well as developing our skills in reading and writing numbers.



Our **Understanding the World** knowledge and skills will be developed in the first half term through our topic on Food. We will learn about different parts of the world where food comes from and how food is grown. We will also be learning about the festivals of Harvest and Sukkot, understanding how people show thanks for food in different ways. We will develop our science knowledge as we explore items such as magnets and mirrors and will also develop our understanding of the body and healthy eating as we learn about food. We will also be exploring changes in the natural world as we learn about Autumn. In the second half

term we will learn about India and compare it with our own location. We will learn about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and will also develop our scientific knowledge as we learn about light and dark. We will learn about two other festivals of light, Hanukkah and Christmas, and will explore why these festivals are important to Jews and Christians. During the term we will be developing our understanding of technology as we use a range of technology in the classroom including iPads, the interactive whiteboard, a touch-screen computer, roamers and remote controlled toys.

We will further our learning of **Expressive Arts and Design** through a range of adult-led and child-initiated activities. In the first half term we will be exploring different media and materials to make some autumnal art, which links to our Forest Schools activities. In the second half term, we will make colourful Rangoli patterns and will make and decorate Diya lamps for Diwali. Across the term we will also be developing musical skills as we sing songs and rhymes and explore the sounds of different instruments. 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.

Finally, we will be hosting a brief meeting on Wednesday 13th September at 9:00am in our classroom to discuss the year ahead. In the mean-time, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries about the content of this letter. We are excited about the term ahead and are looking forward to developing skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Ayres
EYFS Leader