

Welcome to Wordsworth!

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2020

A very warm welcome to Year R! Each half term we will be sending home a curriculum newsletter like this one informing you of the topics we will be covering in school and a breakdown of the learning in each of these topics. We will also include some helpful ideas of things you can do at home to help. Our first priority this half term is to settle the children in and get them used to us, each other and their new environment! We will then spend a week learning about our class book and author and following on from this will be a topic called 'Here come the Dinosaurs!'

Normally we would have an Open Doors session each half term where we would invite you to come into your child's classroom to share their Learning Journey ; due to the current restrictions we would urge you to log in to Tapestry to keep up to date with your child's learning.

>>Please make sure all of your child's clothes and belongings are named<<

It would also be very helpful if each child could bring a named water bottle into school each day. (With just water in please)

Please note that we will be going outside in all weathers so ensure your child has a named coat as the weather starts to change.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our main objective for this half term is to settle the children and make sure that they feel happy, secure and confident in the classrooms. We will be introducing the children to the daily routines and expectations of behaviour. We will be encouraging the children to play as part of a group, talk about their ideas and share the resources.

Ideas for home

Please could you play games where your child has to take turns, and may win or lose! It would also be helpful if you ask them about the class rules and routines they are learning in school.

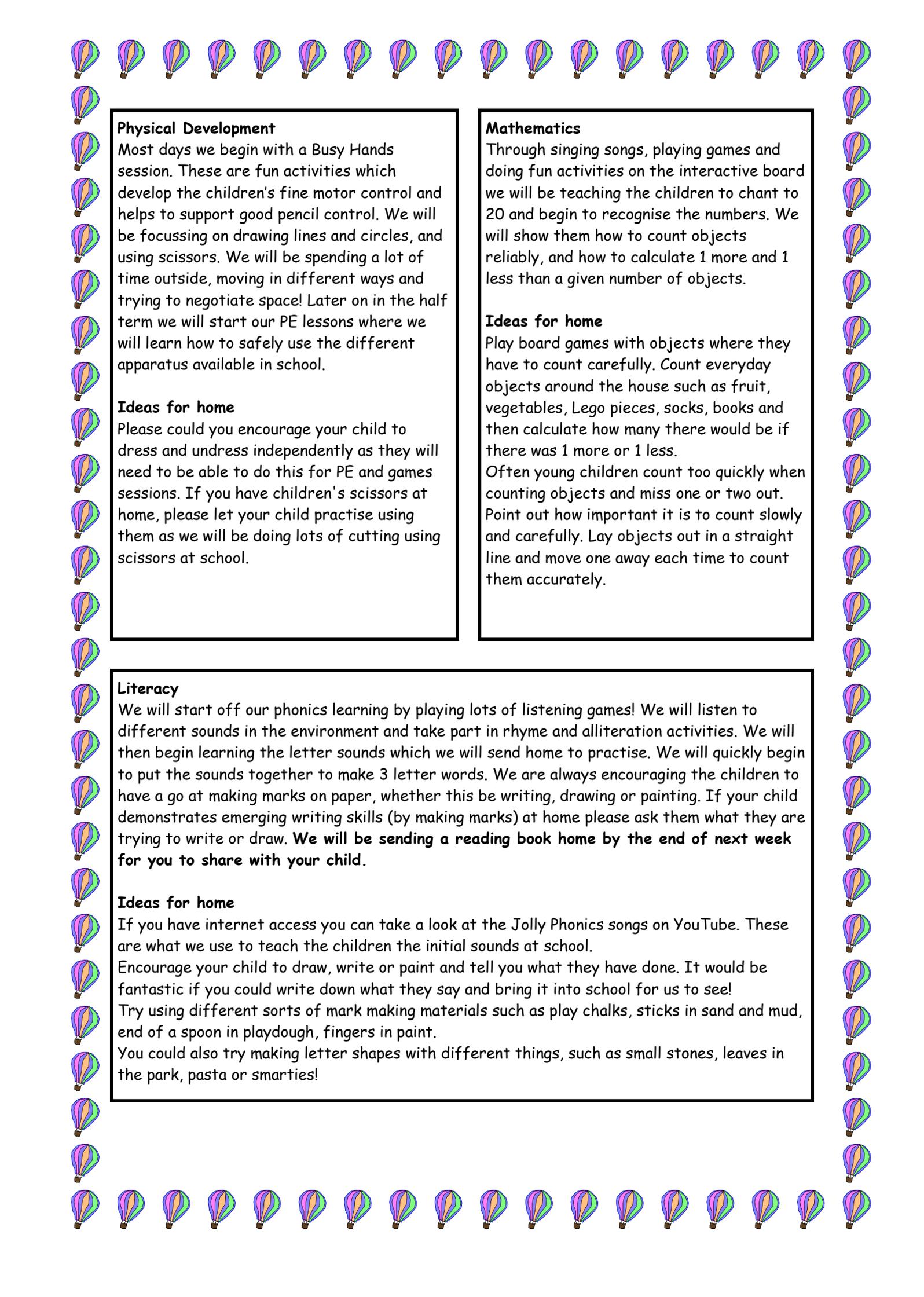
Communication and Language

Every day we will have a story time and during this time we will be encouraging the children to listen carefully and begin to join in and respond to the story with relevant comments. We will also be doing activities that encourage speaking and listening with a partner or as part of a group.

We will be supporting the children to follow instructions and directions in the classroom. The children will be given many opportunities during the day to use creative and imaginative language when they are playing.

Ideas for home

Read stories with your child and then talk about the story. You could discuss what happens at the beginning, middle and end. Play speaking and listening activities, for example you could talk about any photos from the summer you may have, put a shape or object in a bag or under a cloth and suggest your child ask questions to find out what the object is, then swap over.



Physical Development

Most days we begin with a Busy Hands session. These are fun activities which develop the children's fine motor control and helps to support good pencil control. We will be focussing on drawing lines and circles, and using scissors. We will be spending a lot of time outside, moving in different ways and trying to negotiate space! Later on in the half term we will start our PE lessons where we will learn how to safely use the different apparatus available in school.

Ideas for home

Please could you encourage your child to dress and undress independently as they will need to be able to do this for PE and games sessions. If you have children's scissors at home, please let your child practise using them as we will be doing lots of cutting using scissors at school.

Mathematics

Through singing songs, playing games and doing fun activities on the interactive board we will be teaching the children to chant to 20 and begin to recognise the numbers. We will show them how to count objects reliably, and how to calculate 1 more and 1 less than a given number of objects.

Ideas for home

Play board games with objects where they have to count carefully. Count everyday objects around the house such as fruit, vegetables, Lego pieces, socks, books and then calculate how many there would be if there was 1 more or 1 less.

Often young children count too quickly when counting objects and miss one or two out. Point out how important it is to count slowly and carefully. Lay objects out in a straight line and move one away each time to count them accurately.

Literacy

We will start off our phonics learning by playing lots of listening games! We will listen to different sounds in the environment and take part in rhyme and alliteration activities. We will then begin learning the letter sounds which we will send home to practise. We will quickly begin to put the sounds together to make 3 letter words. We are always encouraging the children to have a go at making marks on paper, whether this be writing, drawing or painting. If your child demonstrates emerging writing skills (by making marks) at home please ask them what they are trying to write or draw. **We will be sending a reading book home by the end of next week for you to share with your child.**

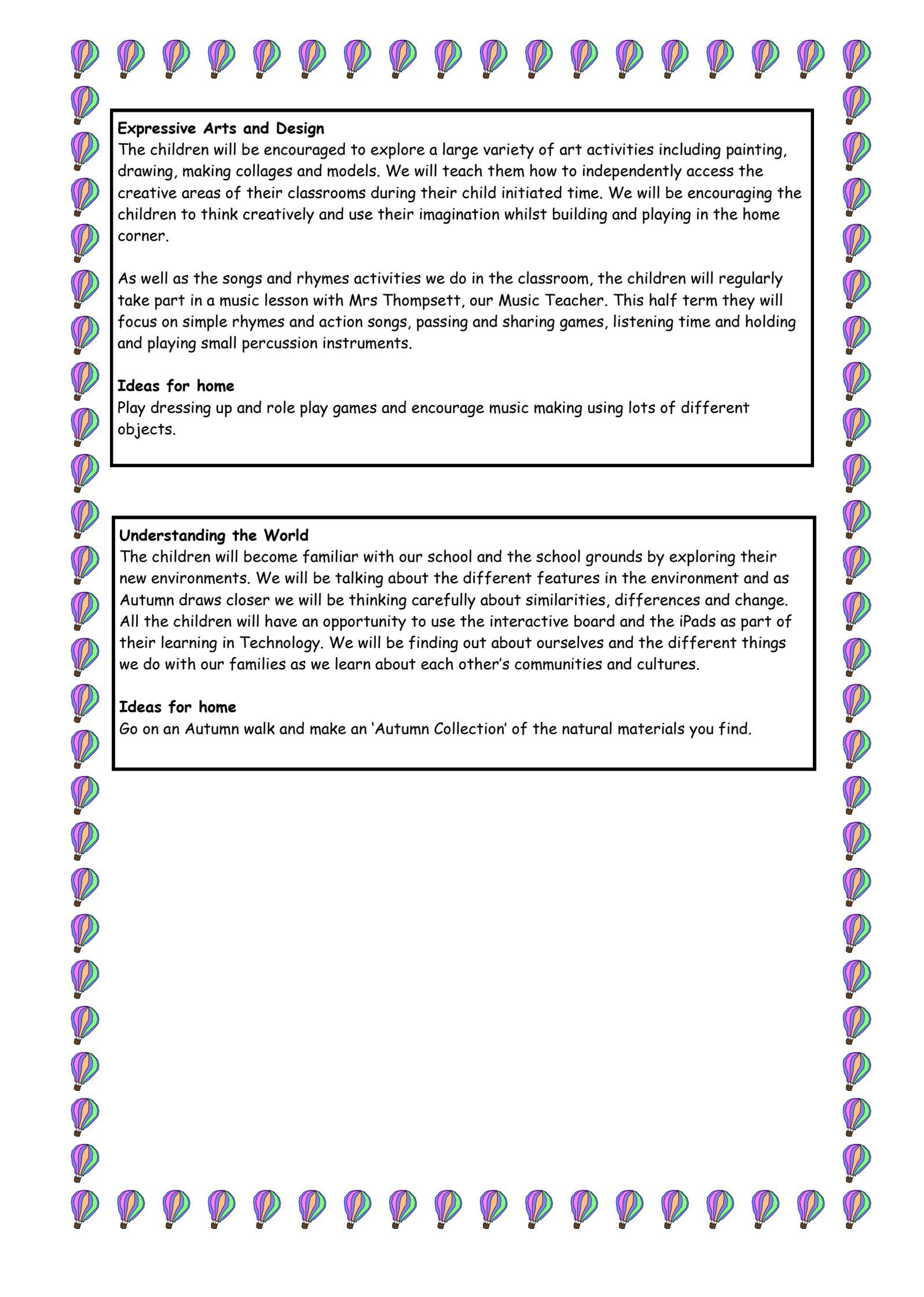
Ideas for home

If you have internet access you can take a look at the Jolly Phonics songs on YouTube. These are what we use to teach the children the initial sounds at school.

Encourage your child to draw, write or paint and tell you what they have done. It would be fantastic if you could write down what they say and bring it into school for us to see!

Try using different sorts of mark making materials such as play chinks, sticks in sand and mud, end of a spoon in playdough, fingers in paint.

You could also try making letter shapes with different things, such as small stones, leaves in the park, pasta or smarties!

A decorative border of colorful hot air balloons surrounds the page. The balloons are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with a row of 18 balloons at the top, a row of 18 balloons at the bottom, and vertical columns of 18 balloons on the left and right sides. Each balloon is multi-colored with shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be encouraged to explore a large variety of art activities including painting, drawing, making collages and models. We will teach them how to independently access the creative areas of their classrooms during their child initiated time. We will be encouraging the children to think creatively and use their imagination whilst building and playing in the home corner.

As well as the songs and rhymes activities we do in the classroom, the children will regularly take part in a music lesson with Mrs Thompsett, our Music Teacher. This half term they will focus on simple rhymes and action songs, passing and sharing games, listening time and holding and playing small percussion instruments.

Ideas for home

Play dressing up and role play games and encourage music making using lots of different objects.

Understanding the World

The children will become familiar with our school and the school grounds by exploring their new environments. We will be talking about the different features in the environment and as Autumn draws closer we will be thinking carefully about similarities, differences and change. All the children will have an opportunity to use the interactive board and the iPads as part of their learning in Technology. We will be finding out about ourselves and the different things we do with our families as we learn about each other's communities and cultures.

Ideas for home

Go on an Autumn walk and make an 'Autumn Collection' of the natural materials you find.