



Dear Squirrels Class Parent and Carers,

Welcome to our Spring 1 topic newsletter, our alternative to Curriculum Grids.

Our topic this half term is **'My Senses'**, in which each week we will focus on a different sense and use this as a focus for activities, play and learning. We've already focussed on 'Looking' in our first week back at school. Now we are exploring hearing, followed by touch, taste and smell before revisiting all of the senses.

Some of our activities will include



In our hearing week we will use sound buttons, respond and recognise different sound sources, make pretend phone calls and enjoy the sound (and bubbles!) from the foot spa. At home you could see if your child turns to sounds such as knocking at the door. Also sing songs together with animal sounds such as 'Old McDonald' or '5 little ducks'.



In touch week, we will explore different textures in feely boxes and focus on the language of shape and position when building and touching. We'll watch 'The Shape Song' on You Tube and then use our fingers to draw shapes in sand or enjoy a massage, feeling shapes being drawn on our skin. Maybe you could try this at home too?



In taste week we'll have some pretend play focussed on supermarket shopping and feeding baby dolls. We will develop number skills by touching objects one to one for counting things in our shop or giving baby three spoons of custard. Of course, we'll be tasting too and developing tongue skills by licking different foods from around our lips. Tasty!



In smell week, we'll explore our sense of smell using herbs, scented oils/sprays and food. We'll use scented hand creams, minty water and lemon playdough. You could try encouraging your child to smell new or familiar things at home. Smell is also key to recognising a dirty nappy. Signing the smell and saying 'poo!' could help support their own recognition of when they are soiled.

We are going to enjoy activities from two sensory stories, Little Red Riding Hood and the Enormous Turnip.

We'll also focus on new Next Steps which we will share you shortly and communicate with you regularly through Home School Books and Tapestry.



We have started taking the whole class swimming on a weekly basis. Swimming sessions will take place each Monday morning. Please help encourage confidence and independence in undressing and dressing. This could be small like taking off shoes by placing hand on the back of heel or learning to take jumpers off.

Many thanks,

Vicky, Sarah and the Squirrel Class team.