

A decorative border of cartoon children, alternating between boys and girls, surrounds the text. The children are smiling and wearing colorful clothing.

## Autumn 1 - Amazing Autumn

### Introduction

This term's "**Amazing Autumn**" theme will provide a rich learning experience, helping children explore their identities, relationships, and the world around them. Through seven key areas of learning, children will grow and develop their skills in communication, personal and social awareness, physical activity, creativity, numeracy, literacy, and understanding of the world. Thank you for your continued support on this exciting journey of learning and growth!

### Communication and Language

**Building Vocabulary:** Through activities like "I Spy" nature walks, children will learn and practice new words, honing their listening skills and identifying sounds around them.

**Story Time:** We will immerse children in stories about family, self, and community, encouraging them to listen, engage, and retell simple stories. Role-play and small world storytelling will foster language development and comprehension.

**Stories we will be exploring include:** Daisy, Eat Your Peas!, The Big Book of Families, Elmer, The Colour Monster, Oliver's Vegetables, Handa's Surprise, Sam's Sandwich, My Daddies, Daddy Do My Hair - Beth's Twists, And Tango Makes Three, We Are All Neighbours, We Are Together, The Proudest Blue, and What Happened to You?.

These stories introduce themes of diverse family structures, emotions, and self-discovery.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

**Celebrating Uniqueness:** Activities like creating handprints and sharing qualities that make them special help children recognise their unique qualities, building self-esteem.

**Healthy Choices:** Hands-on experiences like brushing laminated teeth and making fruit kebabs will teach children about hygiene, nutrition, and self-care practices.

**Emotional Awareness:** Using mirrors and facial expressions, we will explore different emotions, encouraging children to identify feelings like happy, sad, or excited in themselves and others. We will link this to our zones of regulation and the inside out characters.

**HeartSmart:** Our HeartSmart topic this term is "**Get HeartSmart**". This program teaches children about making good choices that protect their hearts and the hearts of others. Through activities and discussions, children will learn about

### Physical Development

**Fine Motor Skills:** Through playful tasks like cutting "hair" on paper tube characters or threading beads on pipe cleaners, children will strengthen their hand muscles, developing the pincer and scissor grip alongside other activities such as dough disco.

**Gross Motor Skills:** Outdoor activities like running, jumping, and obstacle courses will promote strength and coordination, helping children understand how exercise benefits the body.

**Fundamental Movement and Balance Skills:** In our "**Exercise Animal Explorers**" unit in PE, children will explore a variety of animals on land and under the sea to learn how the body works, the benefits of exercise, and the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle. Through activities focused on core strength, balance, and coordination, children will improve fundamental motor skills. They will participate in exercises



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kindness, resilience, and understanding emotions, helping them to build healthy relationships and develop a positive self-image.

that develop static seated balance, static standing balance, and dynamic balance, helping them build control and body awareness.

### Literacy

**Name Writing and Letter Recognition:** Children will practice writing their names with various materials, from playdough to bubble writing and chalk. They'll also match sounds with letters to build early phonetic skills. We aim for the children to be writing their name independently by the end of Autumn 2.

**Phonics - Learning New Sounds:** We will introduce children to a range of phonetic sounds to support early reading and writing skills. The sounds covered will include: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, l, ll, ff, ss.

**Family and Home Stories:** We'll read books about families and homes, discussing family members and drawing family portraits. This fosters children's understanding of personal stories and encourages early writing skills.

### Mathematics

**Counting and Number Recognition:** Through activities such as "My Favourite Five" and making "playdough cakes," children will practice counting, numeral recognition, and grouping objects as well as being introduced to new vocabulary such as subitise.

**Understanding Shapes and Sizes:** Activities like creating "shape people" or shape pictures such as tractors, cars, robots using the four basic shapes and comparing hand and foot sizes will introduce basic concepts of measurement, size comparison, and shape recognition. We enjoy going on a shape hunt around the school and its grounds to find shapes in the environment. We also like to draw around ourselves and measure how tall we are using our hands, feet, cubes or paperclips!

### Understanding the World


**Family and Community:** By talking about family members and sharing family photos, children will build a sense of belonging and respect for diverse family structures and communities.

**Exploring Autumn and Nature:** Through sensory welly walks and discussions on changing seasons, children will use their senses to observe the environment, noticing colours, textures, and sounds of autumn. We will visit the woods every week to enhance this learning.

### Expressive Arts and Design

**Creative Self-Expression:** Activities like making self-portraits, finger-painting, and loose-part collages allow children to explore art techniques while expressing their individuality.

**Mini-Me Creations:** Children will create "mini-me" puppets with their photos, encouraging imaginative play and role-playing scenarios,



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promoting both artistic expression and social skills.

