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**Literacy** This area of the curriculum covers early reading and writing. We support children in their understanding of stories and rhymes, by sharing these with them daily either one-to-one or in groups. We also encourage children to look at books independently, carefully turning the pages and becoming aware that print carries information. Literacy also includes an awareness of rhyme and alliteration (also covered in phonics). You can help your child by reading print in the environment; for example, signs as you walk to the shops. To support your child’s early writing skills, involve them in your writing at home, perhaps writing a shopping list together, or letting them watch you address an envelope.

**Knowledge and Understanding of the World** At nursery the children will be gaining the confidence to explore the natural environment and make discoveries for themselves about how the world works. Parents can help their children by talking to them about events and celebrations which have happened in the family, about your culture and community so that your child gets an idea of their place in the world.

**Expressive Arts and Design** This area covers art, dance, music and pretend play. The nursery environment is richly resourced both inside and out to encourage children to express themselves in these different ways.

**Home Reading** We will be starting home reading very soon and your child will borrow a book from the nursery library. Your child will have a specific day each week on which their book is changed and they read with an adult. Please ensure that you bring their reading folders into nursery on that day. It is very important that you read with your child daily to support his or her learning. When you share the book with your child, please feel free to write a comment in the comments box in their reading record book. The staff may also add a comment and this helps us to build up a dialogue with you, which will be of benefit to your child in their reading development.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** The staff will continue to devote a lot of time helping the children to settle into nursery this term. Children will be supported to develop their social skills such as sharing and turn-taking, their understanding of boundaries and their confidence.

** Nursery**

**Autumn 2018**

**Physical Development** Physical development is about strengthening the whole body to be able to run, jump, hop, climb, ride a bike, hammer a nail and hold a pencil. This is achieved by giving children unlimited access to the indoor and outdoor areas where they can engage with the environment and resources using every part of their body. We also provide them with lots of large and small pieces of paper, books and writing implements so that they can make marks, which is the first step to having the manual dexterity and confidence to write letters. Physical development is also about health and self-care. You can help your child by encouraging them to become more independent in their personal care at home. For example, taking themselves to the toilet, washing their own hands and getting dressed independently.

**Maths** This covers areas such as number and shape, and staff ensure maths is weaved into all play activities. We sing number rhymes every day, which help the children to learn about number order, addition and subtraction as well as counting and numeral recognition. Ask your child to teach you some of these songs so that you can help them with these skills too.

**Communication and language** Communication and language is about speaking, listening, thinking, understanding and problem solving. No matter what is happening in the setting, the children will be developing their speaking and listening skills. All of the adults are expert role models, who will support the children with developing these skills. You can help your child by reading to them daily. Encourage them to talk to you about the stories you have read, or activities you have done in the past, sequencing the events and using more complex sentences.

**Welcome to Garfield Nursery**

First and foremost, all our staff welcome any comments or concerns you may have about your child and are here to help you. We hope this letter will answer any questions you have about the curriculum, but if not, do not hesitate to ask us.

**Important Dates**

Half term 22nd-26th October 2018

**Clothing** Please dress your child in suitable clothing for the weather on that day .For example: On cold days they will need warm clothes, gloves, hat and scarf; on hot days, a sun hat.

**At all times,** please make sure your child is wearing sensible, well-fitting shoes which they can take on and off and do up by themselves and which are suitable for running and climbing safely.

Please bring in **a bag with a full set of spare clothes** for your child to change into if they should need to*.* **Please label everything with your child’s name (including shoes!).**

**Punctuality** It is very important that your child is collected **on time** at the end of the session. Your child can become very distressed if you are late. Your child should be collected promptly at 11.30am.

**The Foundation Stage Framework**

During the autumn term, the children will be learning indoors and outdoors. The activities are carefully planned by the teacher and other adults to meet your child’s interests and developmental needs.