

**Nursery**  
**Parent Curriculum Letter**  
**Autumn Term - 2025**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first week has started well and the pupils are having a great time exploring all the different resources and activities we have on offer. They have also enjoyed sharing a daily story and singing some familiar nursery rhymes. We would ask that you arrive promptly at the start and end of your child's session so that they are not missing their 'busy fingers' activities.

You may have noticed that the pupils enjoy playing outside which is available all year round and we have already started the term with some wet weather, please send in a pair of welly boots for your child to keep in school so that they can enjoy being outside. Please also ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled. This includes T-shirts, jumpers, coats, shoes, wellies, bags, lunch boxes and bottles. If your child is not staying for lunch, they do not need to bring their own water bottle into school. During snack time, the pupils will be offered water and a piece of fruit.

If your child is staying for lunch, please consider how much they can eat in 20 minutes bearing in mind that they will have had a fruit snack in the morning and will be offered another fruit snack in the afternoon. If you have any queries or concerns, you can contact us on our class email - [nursery@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk), however please be aware that a response may take up to 48 hours as we do not monitor emails during nursery hours. If your query is urgent, please contact the school office on 01442 391324.

Thank you for all your support!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Wiltshire, Mrs Mayes, Mrs Walker & Miss Heritage

**Personal,  
Social &  
Emotional  
Development**

During the first few weeks of this half term, our focus will be to ensure the pupils are settled and gaining confidence around their peers and us. We will be encouraging their independent learning, allowing them to choose whichever activity they like, while exploring and investigating different areas of the setting. We would be grateful if you could support us by encouraging your child to put on their own coats, shoes and go to the toilet by themselves. Of course, we are always here to help the children when needed.  
*Key Text: Starting School by Janet and Alan Ahlberg*

**Communication  
& Language**

We will be encouraging the pupils to talk to us about what they are doing, commenting on what they see and asking questions. The first half term is a good opportunity for the pupils to practise their questions skills. During group time, the pupils will be practising their questioning skills as they find out about each other, learning to listen attentively and to take turns when speaking.  
*Key Text: What makes Me a Me by Ben Faulks*

**Literacy**

We have specific book/reading areas (both inside and out) and share daily stories and rhymes giving the pupils an opportunity to join in with repeated refrains and copy actions. A range of writing materials are available in all areas of the setting to encourage the pupils to make their own marks in different contexts, large and small scale. Once the pupils have settled, we will introduce regular adult-led phonics sessions beginning with listening skills and differentiating sounds in the environment.  
*Key text: Owl Babies by Martin Waddell*

<b>Maths</b>	<p>Using number rhymes and songs, we will help the pupils develop an understanding of number order and counting. We provide opportunities for lots of practical maths such as counting the number of pupils in the group, counting beads as we thread them or thinking about shapes we use and make when using Duplo and building blocks. Through these practical activities, the pupils will begin to develop their own understanding of different Maths concepts.</p> <p><i>Key texts: Walking through the Jungle by Fred Penner and Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale</i></p>
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<b>Understanding of the World</b>	<p>During outdoor sessions, we will be learning about the signs of Autumn and growing vegetables in preparation for our Harvest Festival. We will be planting our own bulbs around the Nursery Garden and observing how quickly and how tall they grow. The pupils will also be thinking about their favourite fruits and vegetables, researching where in the world they come from and exploring weather and climates to help explain why they grow in those countries.</p> <p><i>Key Texts: Peace at Last by Jill Murphy and Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French</i></p>
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<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	<p>During 'busy fingers' and group activities, we will introduce the pupils to a variety of creative activities in our creative area which are then available for them to use independently during Child Initiated Learning. Our creative area includes a range of different media including paint, construction materials, chalk and crayons. We also have areas outside where the pupils can use their imaginations to create their own stories. We have a home corner indoors and a mud kitchen outdoors where we encourage role-play based on their own real-life experiences.</p> <p><i>Key Text: Elmer by David McKee</i></p>
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<b>Physical Development</b>	<p>The pupils have many physical development opportunities including sports equipment and climbing in the outside area. Within the next few weeks, we will start our daily 'busy finger' activities which are designed to allow pupils to work on their fine motor skills. At the beginning of the day, they will be directed to a specific activity for up to 10 minutes as part of the morning routine. 'Busy finger' activities are designed to help develop fine motor skills in preparation for early writing. Fine motor activities such as play-dough, Duplo and threading beads are always available for the pupils to choose during active learning time.</p> <p><i>Key Text: Funnybones by Allan Ahlberg</i></p>
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<b>Reading at Home</b>	<p>Pupils will start to choose a book each Monday, beginning on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, to bring home and share with you. Please sign and date your child's Family Learning Book every time you read with them (no more than 7 times in a week). If the children share a book at home 5 times in a week, their Golden Ticket will be entered into the whole school Willy Wonka Reading draw during Friday sharing assembly.</p>
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<p><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p>Friday 3rd October - No School, Staff INSET day          Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Consultations (8 - 10:30am)          Wednesday, 15th October - Parent Consultations (4-7pm)          Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Flu Jabs          Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Assembly          Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term Holiday          Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November - Start of Autumn 2</p>
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