

### Communication and Language

The weekly 'Listening with Lola' session, a great favourite of ours, will continue on a Friday afternoon. These weekly whole class sessions build on the children's listening skills, enhancing the children's ability to communicate effectively. Furthermore, the weekly Show and Tell presentations and the role play area will provide the perfect opportunities for the children to use and develop their communication and language skills.

### English

Phonics is much loved by the children and they look forward to learning a new sound. This half term, the children will start phase 3. Please continue to support your child with each new sound and high frequency word with the help of their phonics book. To enhance the Material World topic, the children will be asked to make a robot out of junk. They will then be asked to complete a piece of writing that allows the reader to get to know their junk robot better. In addition, they will also write a story that includes the junk robot. Furthermore, the children will have the opportunity to sequence familiar stories, label materials and read a wide selection of non-fiction and fiction books and much more.

### Physical Development

Our new PE focus is 'Travelling'. The children will develop skills to move confidently in and around their environment by learning how to appreciate the size and shape of their body in order to move and interact with the environment safely.

### Outdoor Learning

The children continue to enjoy daily free-flow access to the outdoor area and many of the activities linked to the materials topic will take place outside. These consist of making pictures from natural materials, completing a materials treasure hunt and experimenting with materials, as well as many other activities.

## Dodford First School

# Materials

### Topic Overview

This half term our topic is Material World. In this unit, the children will investigate the properties of materials through a range of hands-on activities and will begin to discover the variety of materials within their world.



### Expressive Arts and Design

Our Materials topic will provide the children with plenty of opportunities to design and make, and will certainly support the children in being imaginative and creative by encouraging attitudes of curiosity and questioning. The children will experiment with different materials finding out about their properties and modifying and manipulating them. Pictures made from natural materials, designing a raincoat, making a robot from junk and creating the perfect brick are just a few of the activities that we have lined up for the Reception children to enjoy!



### Understanding the World

The children will develop a better understanding of their 'Material World' through a variety of investigations. Their investigations will revolve around their Dino which, as part of the Sensational Starter, they will have to rescue from a frozen egg. Their dino will then be the centre of our investigations. Such as exploring the best materials to create a warm, snug bed for their new dino and finding the best material to make a boat for the dino to access water play with us!

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

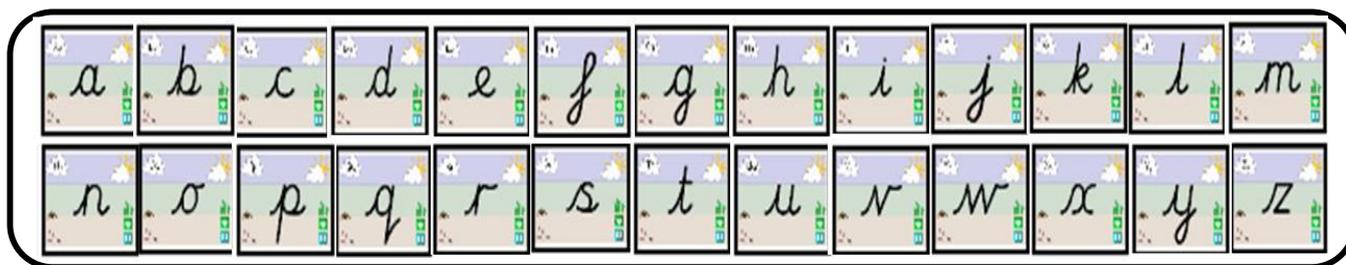
Weekly circle time activities will focus on the development of confidence in who they are and what they can do, as well as understand their own feelings and other people's feelings. We are very proud of each and every one of the children; they consistently put 100% in every task and have the confidence to ask questions to enhance their learning.

### Mathematics

Measuring, comparing and ordering will be at the top of our activity list during our maths sessions. The children will be asked to weigh a variety of materials and use Duplo blocks as a standard unit of measurement to balance the scales and compare the different weights. They will be asked to put the materials into order of weight from lightest to heaviest. Another activity will involve measuring the height of objects using Duplo Blocks as the standard unit of measurement to measure, compare and order the height of objects from shortest to tallest. The children will also explore 3D shapes as they use junk of different size and shape to make models. During these and other activities the children will be expected to apply their knowledge of number by counting and recording. The daily maths sessions will continue to incorporate number, identifying, ordering, adding and subtracting. The range of child initiated and adult led activities will allow the children to explore mathematical ideas and develop mathematical skills and concepts.

**Key skills will be developed in all areas of the curriculum and learning will be linked to our Topic Focus wherever appropriate.**

Pre-Cursive Lettering – Cut out and use as a bookmark!



### Reading

Please listen to your child read regularly at home (at least three times a week). A comment is not necessary, page numbers and a signature is fine, unless you wish to let the teacher know through a comment whether they've enjoyed the book, found it challenging or struggled on decoding certain words.



### Materials

Please look at different materials within your home. Look at man-made and natural materials. See how different materials behave – can you scrunch it up, does it float or sink, is it heavy or light?

### Parent Stay and play

Parent Stay and Play this term is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Reception classroom. It will start at 1.30pm and will run for an hour.

We look forward to seeing you!

