



Beacon Curriculum Themes – Early Years

Early Years – The initial stages of developing curiosity in our curriculum and a mixture between theme led learning and following the interests of our children. Each of these themes are broad themes and will be a balance of some essential experiences that the children will need for later in their school life but also leaving plenty of opportunity to respond to the interests of the children. The first three themes focus on understanding myself and other people including people with disabilities, of different race and with a range of beliefs. The second half of the year the themes move towards celebrating our school, local area, environment and animals, wildlife and nature.

	2 days	5 weeks	1 week	5 weeks	2 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	1 week	5 weeks	5 weeks	2 weeks
N	Team-building and establishing learning	Understanding myself and who I am.	Giving thanks	How do different people celebrate across the world?	Nativity	How do we develop through our life?	How can we look after our planet?	Easter symbols	What are life cycles in nature?	How does pattern differ across the world?	Graduation
						What is our local area like?	What foods do different people enjoy across the world?		How can we look after our animals?	What's the role of an engineer?	



Nursery Overviews

Key Reading

- You Choose – Nick Sharatt & Pippa Goodheart
- Lulu's First Day – Alana Max

Supporting Texts

- Anna hibiscus' Song – Atinuke & Lauren Tobia

Yr N Autumn 1 Understanding myself and who I am.

Overview of learning

What are the key learning threads?

A project that focusses on developing an understanding of themselves. This will focus heavily on self-care and independence and what they can do to look after themselves. It will also look at their family and help them develop who are they are as a person. Children will have the opportunity to share family photographs and special items. They will begin to explore their likes and dislikes by talking about their feelings. They will understand their emotions and feeling about beginning their school journey.

How will our Christian Values be explored?

Children will be introduced to the school values and will look at the value of **hope**, by discussing the type of person they want to grow into and how they can do that. They will also learn about **courage** by beginning to take some responsibility for their own self-care and independence.

What will the focus be for children's learning?

Children will be able to:

- Be able to hang their belongings on their peg
- Know their way around the Nursery classroom
- Know how to wash their hands effectively and be able to do this independently
- Self-register on entry to Nursery
- Know when they need the toilet and how to ask for help with this
- Begin to understand how and why we look after our teeth
- Select an activity independently
- Know why it is important to look after the classroom and how we can do this as part of a team
- Children can identify who is special to them
- Children can share special memories and items about their family with the class
- Know that they can use their familiar/special memories to get comfort from
- Begin to understand and appreciate that their peers will have different families and lives
- Begin to understand their feelings and know that experiencing a range of emotions is normal
- Explore their own likes and dislikes and know that everybody's are different

Learning they can do at home linked to their theme:

- Encourage your child to do some simple self-care activities independently, e.g. putting on their own shoes and carrying their bag.
- Find time each day to read with your child. This can often lead to discussion about your child's day and prompt thoughts and feelings.

Enhancing Learning (Visits, visitors, use of outdoors)

- **Penrith Library; children will join in with a Nursery visit to the library for stories, singing and a craft activity. Parents are welcome to attend.**
- **Dentist; to focus on simple dental hygiene.**

Key Reading

- It's ok to be different – Sharon Puitill
- Diwali (Celebrate the World) – Hannah Eliot

Supporting Texts

- We all Belong – Natalie Goss

Yr N Autumn 2 Celebrating different ways to live.

Overview of learning

What are the key learning threads?

Having more understanding of who they are, children have an opportunity to learn about people who live differently. Children will learn about Diwali and why it is an important time to Hindu faith. They will discover about christenings; what happens and why. How is Christmas celebrated by different people in school, across the country and the world.

How will our Christian Values be explored?

Children will learn about the value of **joy**, understanding the beauty and value of the world and all its people and taking time to acknowledge and share. Children will also explore the value of **compassion**, beginning to understand that others may have different feelings, thoughts and experiences and the value of **faith**, thinking about what we believe during religious festivals and celebrations.

What will the focus be for children's learning?

- Know what Diwali is and what happens during the celebration
- Understand why it is important to the Hindu faith
- Look at the similarities between 'The Festival of Lights' and Fireworks
- Begin to understand basic fire safety around bonfire night
- Know what a church is and talk about their own experience
- Understand that lots of different things happen at church
- Know what a christening is and why it happens
- Discuss and share current experiences of a christening (Photographs)
- Plan and carry out a christening with Acorn Bear
- Know and be able to talk about their own families Christmas traditions
- Show interests in other people's Christmas traditions
- Begin to understand how others spend the festive period

Enhancing Learning (Visits, visitors, use of outdoors)

- St Andrews Church, Penrith- children will attend the christening of Acorn Bear, held by Rev Sargent.
- Wyeknot Donkeys- the donkeys will visit the Nursery for children to meet near to the end of term and Christmas.

Learning they can do at home linked to their theme:

- Discuss with your child the different traditions you enjoy together as a family.
- Share photographs of family members celebrating special occasions, e.g. wedding, christening, birthday celebration.