

We hope you all had a wonderful and busy summer. We're excited to begin the new term and to welcome back our existing families, as well as extend a warm welcome to all the new families joining us at nursery.

As we celebrate our first year as Solihull Day Care, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. Your trust and encouragement truly mean the world to us.

Over the summer, we've been hard at work developing our new curriculum. In collaboration with an independent Early Years consultancy company 'Hopscotch', we've taken the time to re-look, re-think, and embed a curriculum that reflects the unique values and needs of our nursery. We're confident this new approach will support and inspire every child in their learning journey.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead!

Our vision statement:

**"Nurturing a joyful and inspiring learning environment where every child's natural curiosity is celebrated, independent thinking is encouraged, and resilience is cultivated - laying the foundation for confident, lifelong learners."**

# Our Aim

We feel so lucky to share in your child's early years and to watch them **grow, learn, and flourish** each day. Our aim is to give every child the opportunity to explore, be challenged, and discover new things in a safe and inspiring environment - one that nurtures confident, independent learners who are curious about the world around them.

We don't just focus on one part of development - we care for the **whole** child. That means supporting kindness and empathy, encouraging independent thinking, promoting well-being, and helping children find joy in their learning and play.

Each room in our setting is thoughtfully designed to meet children exactly where they are in their journey, giving them the **skills, confidence, and solid foundations** they need for the next stage. We're proud to walk alongside them - and you - every step of the way.



# Marvellous Me: Celebrating Uniqueness

For the autumn term, each month has its own learning theme tailored to the areas of development most relevant for each age group. In September, our focus will be **Marvellous Me: Celebrating Uniqueness**.

Marvellous Me is a celebration of everything that makes each child special. It's a wonderful way for us to get to know children and families deeply, building a secure foundation from which every child can grow and thrive.

## Cubs Room

In the **Cubs** Room, we help our youngest learners begin to explore who they are, what they can do, and the special people in their lives through:

- **Exploring faces and voices** - recognising familiar people and responding to smiles, sounds, and gentle conversation.
- **Discovering their bodies** - finding hands and feet, learning to roll, sit, crawl, and perhaps take first steps.
- **Building early communication** - babbling, copying sounds, using gestures, and enjoying songs and rhymes.
- **Developing strong bonds** - feeling safe and loved through caring relationships with key adults.
- **Enjoying sensory play** - exploring textures, sounds, and colours to spark curiosity and learning.





# Marvellous Me: Celebrating Uniqueness

## Bears Room

For our **Bears**, Marvellous Me is about helping children discover more about themselves, their abilities, and the special people in their lives. At this age, children are full of curiosity, independence, and personality, and we nurture this through:



- **Learning about our bodies**
  - naming body parts, moving in different ways, and learning how to keep healthy and safe.
- **Talking about our families**
  - sharing who's important to us and celebrating family traditions.
- **Understanding our feelings**
  - recognising emotions like happy, sad, or excited, and expressing them kindly.
- **Celebrating what we can do** - from climbing and jumping to drawing and singing, building confidence in new skills.
- **Making friends** - learning to share, take turns, and play together.

# Marvellous Me: Celebrating Uniqueness

## Tigers, Leopards & Lions Room

In our **Tigers, Leopards & Lions** rooms, Marvellous Me helps children explore their identities, talents, and relationships while building the skills they'll need for school:

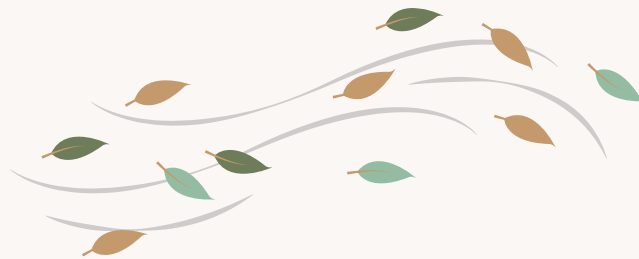
- **Our bodies** - learning how they work and how to keep them healthy.
- **Our families and friends** - talking about who is special to us and celebrating differences and similarities.
- **Our feelings** - recognising emotions, expressing them positively, and problem-solving with kindness.
- **Our talents and interests** - discovering what we enjoy and what makes us proud.



# October: Autumnal Senses

This month, all our rooms are embracing the beauty of autumn through a **sensory adventure**. By exploring the **sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes** of the season, children will connect with nature, build curiosity, and develop skills across all areas of learning.

This theme is not just about noticing the season, it's about engaging the **senses, sparking curiosity, and building a stronger connection with the natural world.**



## Cubs Room

In the **Cubs Room, Autumnal Senses** will be explored through gentle, age-appropriate experiences that allow our youngest learners to safely enjoy seasonal changes:

- **Sight** - looking at colourful autumn leaves, pumpkins, and natural treasures in discovery baskets.
- **Hearing** - listening to rustling leaves and environmental sounds during trips to the park.
- **Smell** - exploring scents such as cinnamon sticks, oranges, and pinecones.
- **Touch** - feeling natural items like leaves, smooth conkers, and soft scarves.
- **Taste** - trying pumpkin and apple purées (where appropriate).



# October: Autumnal Senses

## Bears Room

For our **Bears**, autumn brings opportunities to discover, explore, and talk about what they notice:

- **Sight** - recognising the colours of leaves on nature walks, looking closely at pumpkins, exploring woodland animals, and commenting on what they see.
- **Hearing** - enjoying seasonal stories, the wind in the trees, and crunchy leaves underfoot.
- **Touch** - handling pinecones, conkers, and leaves in sensory trays and craft activities.
- **Smell** - enjoying scents like cinnamon, apple, and nutmeg during playdough and sensory play.
- **Taste** - sampling autumnal foods such as roasted vegetables or apple slices (where appropriate).



## Tigers, Leopards & Lions Room

In our **Tigers, Leopards, Lions** rooms, **Autumnal Senses** will encourage deeper exploration of seasonal changes while developing descriptive language, early science skills, and creativity:

- **Sight** - observing how leaves change colour, spotting acorns and berries, and noticing how the days get shorter.
- **Hearing** - listening to rustling leaves, snapping twigs, and autumn poems and songs.
- **Touch** - handling pinecones, bark, and leaves, and using them in art and construction projects.
- **Smell** - exploring the aromas of seasonal fruits, herbs, and spices like cinnamon and cloves.
- **Taste** - enjoying warming autumn foods such as vegetable soup, apple slices, or pumpkin bread.



# November: Sparkle and Shine

## Cubs and Bears Room

The **sparkle and shine theme** is important for babies and young children because it blends joyful **sensory experiences** with early developmental support. Gentle lights and twinkles capture their attention and strengthen their visual tracking, while shiny shapes introduce them to the world of patterns, contrasts and early spatial awareness. Playful moments filled with giggles **nurture emotional bonding** and teaches our youngest children that learning is playful and fun, warm encouragement paired with opportunities to move, builds their confidence and motor skills. Together, these elements create a **stimulating, loving environment** that supports **brain growth, physical coordination and emotional well-being** in a way that feels magical for both cubs babies and bears children.



## Tigers, Leopards and Lions Room

At our nursery, we believe **kindness** is a core value that we want all our children to hold, from our youngest babies to our oldest children. The theme **sparkle and shine** will celebrate the kindness and care the children have for one another and for our world in the Tigers, Leopards and Lions rooms. We will encourage our children to '**shine a light**' on people who help us, for example people in our family, friends, helpers at our nursery and in the wider community - we will teach this through story books, activities focused on this topic and through play. We will explore how small acts like **sharing, using our manners and looking after the world around us** can make a big difference, teaching children that small acts of kindness are little sparks, and together, these sparks will 'sparkle' our world, making it a **brighter, happier place** for everyone.



# December: Creator's Club

Creativity is a core concept we value in our nursery because we believe it helps build the skills children need for life. When children engage in open ended imaginative activities they learn to **problem solve** and **think flexibly** whilst expressing their own ideas in unique ways.

## Cubs and Bears Room

- **Shape tap and tinkle** invites the cubs and bears to explore colourful shapes they can tap, stack and shake, discovering new sounds and textures with every touch.
- **Build and bash** encourages our smallest architects to stack soft blocks high, then joyfully topple them down- learning cause and effect while practicing their motor skills, the bears children will extend cause and effect learning in other ways.
- **Rainbow wiggles** is all about movement and colour, with flowing scarves, ribbons and soft arches that encourage children to reach, wiggle and crawl through a world of rainbows. Every activity blends sensory discovery with giggles, giving babies and young children a safe space to explore, create and grow.



# December: Creator's Club

## Tigers, Leopards and Lions Room

For Tigers, Leopards and Lions children creative play develops **hand-eye coordination** and enhances **focus and perseverance**; this also supports encouraging our children to have a go and take risks. It develops confidence as they make their own choices and ignites the **love for learning**; turning curiosity into a lifelong habit and supports children to view themselves as capable, inventive thinkers.

- **Little Makers, Big Imagination** encourages children to bring their big ideas to life to life. Each week is filled with hands-on adventures that inspire curiosity and confidence.
- In **Pattern Play**, children discover shapes, colours, and sequences through puzzles, stamping, and playful sorting games.
- Our **Little Artists** explore paint, collage, and clay, learning to express their ideas in vibrant, tactile ways.



# Core Books & Rhymes

## Cubs and Bears Room

	Autumn Term Rhymes	Core Books
<b>September /October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes</li><li>• Baa Baa Black Sheep</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes</li><li>• A First Book All About Your Eyes, Nose, Fingers &amp; Toes</li><li>• My First Feelings</li><li>• That's Not My Hedgehog</li><li>• Little Acorn</li></ul>
<b>November/ December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twinkle Twinkle Little Star</li><li>• Row Row your Boat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twinkle Twinkle Little Star</li><li>• My Very First Book of Shapes</li><li>• Five Little Fireworks</li></ul>

## Tigers and Leopards Room

	Autumn Term Rhymes	Core Books
<b>September /October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes</li><li>• Baa Baa Black Sheep</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who's In My Family? All About Our Families</li><li>• Families Grow</li><li>• A Handful Of Buttons</li><li>• Colour Monster</li><li>• In My Heart</li></ul>
<b>November/ December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</li><li>• Hey Diddle Diddle</li><li>• Humpty Dumpty</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Leaf Thief</li><li>• Pumpkin Soup</li><li>• We're Going On A Pumpkin Hunt!</li><li>• Basil Dreams Big</li></ul>



# Core Books & Rhymes

## Lions Room

	Autumn Term Rhymes	Core Books
<b>September /October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes</li><li>• Baa Baa Black Sheep</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colour Monster</li><li>• In My Heart</li><li>• Basil Dreams Big</li><li>• Family and Me!</li><li>• Here's A Little Poem</li><li>• If All The World Were</li><li>• A Handful Of Buttons</li><li>• Kindness Grows</li><li>• The Leaf Thief</li><li>• Pumpkin Soup</li></ul>
<b>November/ December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</li><li>• Hey Diddle Diddle</li><li>• Humpty Dumpty</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We're Going On A Pumpkin Hunt!</li><li>• How To Catch A Star</li><li>• Little Glow</li><li>• Blow A Kiss Catch A Kiss</li><li>• The Comet</li></ul>





# STAFF NEWS:

We have so many wonderful updates to share with you this term - our nursery family is growing, returning and shining in so many ways!

In our Cubs room, we are overjoyed to welcome back Samara to her role as Deputy manager - and to meet her baby! She will be working alongside Sophie, also Deputy manager, with the ever enthusiastic Maisie leading the room. They are joined by Jess E and Ellie B as deputy room leaders, and our caring team members Connie, Molly-Mae, Sahar, Tina, Milly and Paige, who help make Cubs such a warm place for our little ones.

Over in the Bears room, Zara continues to spread her expertise as Deputy manager across both Bears and Tigers. Shabana and Sultana are our wonderful joint room leaders, supported by a fantastic team - Natalie, Megan H, Lauren, Rosie and Tracey - whose kindness and dedication shine every day.

The Tigers team, led by the ever-inspiring Charlotte with Gina as her deputy, is full of energy and creativity thanks to Laura, Debbie, Alexa, Olivia and Nazli. We are also thrilled to welcome Mehgan and her baby in to Cubs.

Our Leopards room, formerly known as Younger Lions, is led with care and creativity by Caroline as room leader, supported by Elle as deputy, and our amazing practitioners Madhu, Lisa and Flora.

In the Lions room, Serina is our much-loved Deputy manager, working alongside Claire as room leader and Kelsey as part of the team. We are especially happy to welcome back Keira and her baby - it's so lovely to have them with us again.




# STAFF NEWS:

Behind the scenes, our SEN team has been growing stronger than ever, Sophie continues her vital role as SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), with Elly leading SEN provision for Tigers, Leopards and Lions, and Jess E leading SEN across Cubs and Bears. This work is such an important part of ensuring every child thrives.

We're so proud of our apprentices Rosie, Olivia and Molly-Mae, who are doing brilliantly in their studies. In September, we'll be welcoming four new apprentices - bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm and even more energy to our team.

And finally, with both sadness and excitement for their new chapters, we say goodbye to Jess B, Abbie and Sati. They will be missed by children and staff, but we wish them nothing but happiness for their futures.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Halloween party and disco

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Halloween party and disco  
(please dress up)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November - bonfire night celebration

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November - nursery photos

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas jumper day  
(and a special visitor!!)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas party!

We close for Christmas at 6pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
We reopen on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30am

