



Key Information

Please continue to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather – we do spend a fair amount of time each day learning outdoors and it really helps if the children are wrapped up warm and prepared for anything!

At the end of this half term we will be having a very special meeting with someone who works very hard over Christmas – although he might have to say hello over zoom instead of face-to-face this year!

Snacks are provided free of charge.



Horton Park Primary
We Learn to Succeed

DSP – Autumn 2

Kahla Mayhew – Class teacher
Dianne Dalby – Teaching assistant
Zanab Khan - Teaching assistant

Our Topics

Here at the DSP our learning is skills-based and we follow the children’s interests rather than set topics. However, we do learn about key events. This half term these include:

Autumn
Diwali
Colours and Light
Christmas
Winter

Homework

We do not set homework on a regular basis, but ask that you read with your child as often as you can. This can be their school reading book or anything else they will enjoy sitting and reading with you – recipes, football programmes, anything goes!

Trips and Visitors

This year due to COVID there will be no trips or visitors to school. However, in a normal year we would continue to take the children to local places of interest during this half term, and help them to understand their local area.

Inclusion

This half term, once we feel that the children have settled and are ready for a little more challenge, we begin to join their peers at Horton Park for music lessons. We also continue to attend important whole-school assemblies, and take part in the KS1 nativity.



Maths and Literacy

This half term we establish the routine of using learning bag time to provide some more focused activities for the children to complete with the class teacher.

If your child is not ready for this step, however, that is perfectly normal and we will continue to support their maths and literacy through our rich environment of carefully selected resources.

We also use one of our Shared Attention sessions per day to focus on story telling or number work as a group.

At the DSP, we work very closely with children and parents to ensure that we understand the individual needs of each and every child, and can cater their learning experiences to get the best progress possible through meaningful, play-based learning experiences. Their targets are taken from their EHCPs and include the four prime areas of learning:

PSED

We look at how the children settle, their wellbeing and ability to regulate themselves. We give them strategies to enable them to become more independent and to recognize their emotions. We encourage them to play alongside and, eventually, with their peers in a positive way. We help them to understand the rules of the classroom and our agreed values.

Thinking

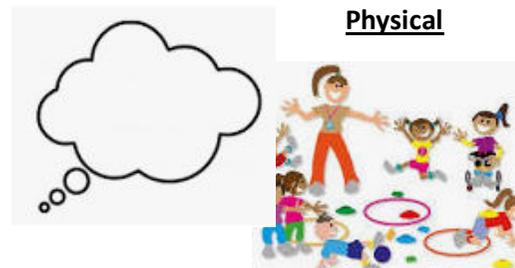
Thinking skills are all about how the children process information. We do lots of jigsaws and matching/stacking activities to help them evolve this area of the brain. We make ICT available for the children to access independently, and show them how cause and effect can look. WE play memory games and look at mathematical concepts such as size and time.

Communication



We use lots of different ways to communicate with the children and help them communicate with us. We use Makaton signing alongside speech, visual timetables, now and next boards and objects of reference. We model speech and do not use language that the children find difficult to understand.

Physical



Physical skills involve both gross motor skills such as running, climbing and throwing, and fine motor skills such as handling tools, cutting and holding a pencil. It also involves learning about changing clothes independently, washing our hands and eating healthy foods. Our children do outdoor learning almost every afternoon and are constantly engaged in opportunities to enhance their physical abilities.