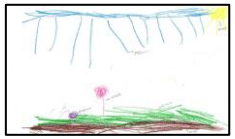
The Winchester School, Jebel Ali

Family Learning Newsletter (Foundation Stage 1) – November-December 2026

Area of learning	Focus	Home activities/How can you help your child at home	Useful website
Prime Area **Communication and Language**	**Understanding** Understands the use of objects (e.g. "What do we use to cut things"?)	**Encourage** your child to **talk and share** during everyday activities such as cooking, gardening, and role-play. Discuss the purpose of different objects and tools as they play. **Talk** with your child about how everyday tools are used, such as scissors for cutting, crayons for drawing, and glue sticks for sticking. Model their use and encourage discussion during play.	Understanding-and-describing-the-function-of-objects/
	Speaking Can retell a simple past event in correct order (e.g. went down slide, hurt finger).	**Encourage** your child to **talk** about past experiences using photographs or pictures. Support them in retelling events in order and introduce new vocabulary through conversations. Use puppets and role-play props to encourage speaking, sharing ideas, retelling stories, and building understanding.	
Physical Development	**Moving and Handling** Creates lines and circles pivoting from the shoulder and elbow.	**Encourage** your child to make marks such as lines and circles while playing in sand, water, or using ribbon wands. **Talk** about the shapes and movements they create. **Encourage** fine motor activities such as threading pasta onto a lace, beading, or tearing and pasting paper. **Talk** about their creations and encourage them to share what they have made.	Physical Development Activities
	Health and self-care Can wash and dry hands effectively and understands why this is important**.**	**Encourage** your child to talk through the steps of handwashing and drying hands. Model the routine, ask them to explain each step in order, and **share** the importance of hand hygiene and saving water.	Hand Washing for Kids

	Dresses with help, e.g. puts arms into open-fronted coat or shirt when held up, pulls up own trousers, and pulls up zipper once it is fastened at the bottom.	**Encourage** independence in dressing by allowing your child to get ready for school or playtime on their own. **Talk** about each clothing item and praise their efforts as they learn.	Dressing Up
Personal, Social and Emotional Development **Leadership GEMstones** **November- Leading with Gratitude**- *Be thankful and appreciate what you have.* **December- Leading with Unity**-	**Making relationships** Seeks out companionship with adults and other children, sharing experiences and play ideas. **Sense of self** Enjoys sense of belonging through being involved in daily tasks. Promotes recognising and appreciating contributions. Highlights the importance of teamwork and collaboration.	**Talk and share** with your child about the importance of friendship, kindness, sharing, and playing together. Spend quality time together and encourage them to share their thoughts and experiences. **Encourage** your child to talk about playing with friends and sharing toys. Discuss how sharing helps everyone enjoy and learn together. **Encourage** responsibility and independence by helping your child tidy up their toys and put belongings in the correct place after play. **Encourage** your child to **talk and share** about the things they are thankful for each day. Ask them to share something that makes them happy, such as a toy, a favourite food, or a family member. Create a "Thankful Jar" where they can add drawings or items that represent what they appreciate. **Talk and share** while reading stories about gratitude. Discuss how characters feel when they say "thank you" and praise your child when they express thankfulness. **Encourage** opportunities to work and play together with family and friends. Talk about the importance of teamwork, helping others, and celebrating each other's achievements. **Encourage** your child to **share** their ideas about how they can support friends and family. Discuss simple acts of kindness that help others feel included, valued, and cared for.	To-build-teamworking-and-interaction-skills/ Encouraging-belonging-and-connectedness

Work together and support each other.			
Specific Area **Literacy**	**<u>Reading</u>** Shows interest in illustrations and words in print and digital books and words in the environment **Books:** My Car by Byron Barton Boats by Anne Rockwell Maisy goes on a plane by Lucy Cousins **<u>Writing</u>** Sometimes gives meaning to their drawings and paintings.	**Encourage** your child to explore words and pictures by going on a "Word and Picture Hunt" together. Reading a book and asking questions about the illustrations and new words they notice. **Encourage** your child to look for signs, labels, and printed words around the house and outside. Ask your child to point out words they recognise or images that catch their attention. This builds curiosity and helps them connect printed and digital text with the world around them. **Talk** to your child about the importance of books and iPad. For e.g.: Books give us information and even iPad can give us information, they help us with our language skills, and dictionaries help with learning new vocabulary and so on. **Encourage** your child to draw and share their experiences from the school, the park, their playdate or a holiday. **Talk** about their drawings or any marks they have made. Always appreciate and praise their work or drawing, even if it doesn't represent what they say. Include opportunities to talk and write with a purpose like making a list while role-playing supermarket shopping or a card for a family member or friend. Some activities which you can practice at home are making marks in sand, using brush to make marks or using large handed rollers.	https://teachhandwriting.blog/tag/simple-drawings/ 

Mathematics	**Cardinality** Counts up to five items, recognizing that the last number said represent the total counted so far (cardinal principle). **Pattern** Explores and adds simple linear patterns of two or three repeating items, e.g. stick, leaf (AB) or stick, leaf, stone (ABC).	**Encourage** your child to touch the objects, count and then repeat the last number. For example: "1, 2, 3 – 3 cars". Point out the number of things whenever possible; so, rather than just 'chairs', 'apples' or 'children', say 'two chairs', 'three apples', 'four children'. **Talk** to them about the number of members in their family. Ask them questions like how many? For e.g.: How many toy vehicles do they have? How many colours can we see in the UAE flag? How many Emirates does the UAE have? So, children can identify that a number needs to be told when they hear the words 'how many'. **Talk** to them to get you a specific number of things, and emphasize the total number in your conversation. Provide your child some natural resources available around your house, for example- leaves, twigs, stones, etc. Now ask your child to create a pattern using only 2 objects, for example- stone, leaf, stone, leaf. **Encourage** your child to replace one object and continue the pattern. **Challenge** your child to create a pattern using more than 2 objects.	Counting-numbers-1-5 Activity Pattern Activity
Understanding the World	**People and communities** Remembers and talks about significant events in their own experience. **The World** Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world.	**Encourage** your child to **talk and share** special experiences with family and friends. Look through photographs or create a memory book together and encourage them to recall and describe what happened. Model simple past tense words such as went, saw, had, and was during conversations. **Share** experiences together as you explore places in the community and the natural environment. **Encourage** your child to talk about what they see, hear, and discover. **Encourage** your child to talk about their observations at places such as the mall, airport, supermarket, garden, or zoo. Discuss different plants, animals, fruits, vegetables, and how they grow.	Teaching-children-recall-retell-past-events

		Talk and share about the weather, plants, animals, and foods you encounter during your outings. Use these conversations to introduce new vocabulary and build your child's confidence in speaking and sharing ideas.	
Expressive Arts and Design	**<u>Creating with materials</u>** Uses various construction materials. **<u>Being imaginative and expressive</u>** Engages in imaginative role-play based on own ideas or first-hand or peer experiences. **<u>Music and Movement</u>** Claps or taps to the pulse of the song he or she is listening to /singing.	**Encourage** your child to talk and share their ideas while building blocks, Lego, or other construction materials. Discuss what they would like to make, the steps involved, and how different materials can be used to achieve their goal. **Share** and join in role-play activities with your child. Through role play, children develop communication, cooperation, sharing, and practical life skills while making sense of the world around them. **Encourage** your child to talk about their role-play experiences, explaining who they are pretending to be, what they are doing, and how different characters might feel. **Encourage** your child to copy clapping hands, clicking fingers, slapping knees, stamping feet while you model them. Please do praise or reward them on following every action. **For e.g. with following rhyme-** Here we go round the Mulberry Bush This is the way we clap our hands, Clap our hands, clap our hands. This is the way we clap our hands. Clap our hands …. Stamp our feet …. Click our fingers …. Rub our hands …. Pat our knees etc...	Imaginative-role-play-young-children music-and-movement
<u>Coming up events:</u> UAE Flag Day Social Media Kindness Day		Tuesday, 3rd November 2026 Monday, 9th November 2026	

World Science Day for Peace and Development	Tuesday, 10th November 2026
FS1 Sports Day	Friday, 13th November 2026
World Kindness Day	Friday, 13th November 2026
World Diabetes Day	Saturday, 14th November 2026
International Day of Tolerance	Monday, 16th November 2026
International Day of Students	Tuesday, 17th November 2026
FS1 Field Trip to Park	Wednesday, 18th November 2026
International Men's Day	Thursday, 19th November 2026
Arabic Week and National Day Celebrations	Monday, 23rd to Friday, 27th November 2026
Martyr's Day / UAE Commemoration Day	Monday, 30th November 2026
National Day Celebration	Friday, 28th November 2026
Parent Teacher Consultation	Wednesday, 9th December and Thursday, 10th December 2026
UAE National Day holiday	Wednesday, 2nd and Friday, 4th December 2026
Winter Break	Monday, 14th December 2026 to Friday, 1st January 2026
Start of Term 2	Monday, 4th January 2027