**Our Early Years Curriculum Themes 2015-16**

Autumn 1

***Our House, in the middle of our street.***

Children will be talking about themselves, helping staff to get to know them and helping them get to know each other further. They will look at similarities and differences between themselves and others and talk about what makes them special. We will be learning about family trees and talking about who lives in our homes. We will also encourage the children to talk about their own history, hobbies and strengths. The children will be taken on a walk around the local estate to look at different types of homes and places they see on their journey to school.

Autumn 2

***Celebrate good times***

At Caslon, we like to celebrate many different religious festivals and celebrations with our children. We find that the second half term has lots of opportunities for these celebrations and so, have named our topic appropriately. The children will continue to learn about ‘ourselves’ by focusing in on birthdays and how we change over time. They will also find out about and celebrate many festivals including, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Christmas, and many more!

Spring 1

***How to Sink a Ship***

History and Geography are two key subjects that we encourage children to explore in this topic. We will start by looking at places that people can travel by ship and then look at transport that can be used to get to other places. They will develop their scientific skills through exploring water and how it can be changed and making predictions and testing objects that float and sink. We will develop the children as historians by learning about the Titanic and a lady called Grace Darling (the person who created the concept of life boats).Spring 2

***Little Explorers***

In this topic, the school will get a surprise visit from some caterpillars, helping children to learn about life cycles of butterflies. We will be going on mini beast hunts and talking about the creatures we find. The children will get chance to look at mini beasts through magnifying glasses and talk about how they move, what they look like, what they eat and where they live. This topic will help us in teaching children about how to show care and concern for living things and the importance of being kind and caring.

Summer 1

***How to catch a shadow***

As the sun begins to come, we hope to take advantage with some shadow catching. The children will work together to problem solve how they can catch their shadows and see what happens to Peter Pan when he loses his. In this topic, they will also learn about light and dark and how shadows are created. We will use different light sources to create shadows and even put on Chinese Shadow puppet shows for each other.



Summer 2

***We’re all going on a summer holiday***

We hope to kick start this topic with a fun trip for you and your child to enjoy and share. This topic will lead on from the topic in Summer 1 and we will add to this topic according to the interests the children show in the first half term. The children will learn about sun safety and holidays. We will learn about what happens to the sun in the daytime and at night and identify games we can play and what we should wear when out in the sun.