

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents,

On behalf of our Early Years team, I would like to welcome you all to a new academic year and thank you for choosing our setting and for entrusting your child to our care. We endeavour to do our utmost to provide the best start for your child. We have many exciting activities and learning opportunities planned for the children and we look forward to growing a strong relationship with you over the next year. This half term is an opportunity for the children to get to know one another and learn to work as a team. This newsletter is a chance for you to find out what your child will be learning over the next half term and therefore be able to work with us and consolidate the learning at home. We have an open door policy at Bluebell Nursery and Tilston school. Therefore, if you have any worries or concerns no matter how small, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the staff. We are happy to help

Mrs Edwards and the EYFS Team



Ourselves, Families and Homes



Our topic this half term will focus on finding out about who we are and learn about our families and homes and those of others

In Literacy, we will be listening to rhymes and stories, both fiction and non fiction, encouraging children to make comments on what they have heard and to participate in small group and class discussions.

We will be Exploring a wide range of print through labels, signs, menus and lists

We will be looking at initial sounds in words and reading letter sounds, blending the sounds together to make short words and learning to read common exception words

In writing we will be making sure that children are able to recognise and write their names and use some of their letter knowledge in early writing, forming them correctly.

We will be following the Little Wandle programme for Handwriting focussing on patterns and lower case letters.

Specific stories

All kinds of Families

All Kinds of People

My Mum and Dad Make Me Laugh

Peace at Last – Jill Murphy

Its Okay To Be Different

Goldilocks and the Three Bears-
Lauren Child

Home by Carson Ellis

Whatever Next – Jill Murphy

Lullabyhullabaloo - Mick Inkpen

Maths

In our setting we follow the White Rose Scheme for mathematics. This half term we will be covering:

Matching and sorting
Comparing amounts

Comparing size, mass and capacity

Exploring pattern

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials:

Draw portraits of themselves and each other
Use vegetables to print pictures and patterns
Observational drawings of vegetables
Draw pictures of their families and homes

Kapow Art scheme- Marvellous Marks

Kapow DT scheme- Junk Modelling

• Being imaginative and Expressive

Sing well known nursery rhymes and songs
Perform a song for Harvest festival
Recount stories with others during role play and small world play
Create a role play home corner of the present and then of the past

Charanga music scheme- Theme – Me!

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

Outdoor opportunities to develop strength, balance and coordination on equipment
PE – First PE

Fine Motor Skills

Daily Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions to develop muscle strength and coordination for writing

Daily Dough Disco activities.

Finger gym activities threading, snipping, use of tweezers, pinching

Letter formation movements using large tools, ribbons, felt pens and pencils

Dressing and undressing for PE

Opportunities for using knives for spreading, chopping and cutting

Understanding of the World

Past and Present

Listen to adults and compare life in the past to the present.

Compare household objects of the past with those of the present

People, Culture and Communities

Participating in RE lessons on Special stories- what is the Bible?

How do Hindus celebrate Diwali?

Explore family life in other countries compared to family life in UK

Look at houses and homes around the world

The Natural World

Participate in outdoor learning- learn about the natural woodland environment

We follow the White Rose Scheme for Science. This half term we will be covering the themes Me and My Small World, What's in My Basket and Senses.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

Discuss how characters maybe feeling through stories and rhymes that we read.

Understand and talk about different feelings.

Encourage children to put up hands when wanting to talk to an adult.

Managing Self

Introduce and understand class rules and class dojos

Develop a sense of responsibility through introducing different monitors in the classroom

Introduce routines such as washing hands, snack time, lunchtime

Model correct handwashing at snack and lunchtimes

Begin to undress and dress themselves before and after PE and when dressing up

Introducing safety rules for Handling blocks, scissors, hammers, chairs

Building relationships

Model turn taking through games, group discussions and role play

Opportunities to develop friendships through show and tell, group games and discussions

Daily opportunities to spend time with buddies

Library Time

Come and read a book with your child and help them to choose a library book to take home. This will happen every Thursday afternoon starting 24th September at 2.45pm-3.15pm. Toddlers, childminders, grannies and grandads welcome.

Reading (Reception Age children only)

This term the children will receive 2 practise reading sessions a week with the class teacher. This will be recorded in their reading record books. Children will be given two reading books per week. One will support the phonics that they are learning in class and one other. Reading books will be changed every Tuesday. Please make sure that you record in their reading records that you have read with your child otherwise we will assume that they have not read at home and therefore not change the book. We **do** expect the children to read the book **more than once** to support consolidation.

Alongside their reading the children will be bringing home a wallet with letter sounds in and key words we have learnt in school. Please practice the key words and letter sounds in their plastic wallets as we will be adding more as the term progresses. Please ensure that the wallets are in school daily so we can practice the sounds when we have a spare minute.

Home/School Contact

Please remember to keep sending your photos and comments to add to your child's learning journey using our Evidence Me software.

We will send you photos and comments of what we have been doing in class too. Also please keep a look out on the school website for weekly updates on the children's learning.

Information on Evidence Me will be shared at the Meet the Teacher meeting.

Homework

Homework is given out on a Tuesday and collected in the following Monday. The work consists of consolidation activities based on the work the children are doing in school in phonics and mathematics. There will also be a topic activity from time to time.

N.B. Homework only applies to Reception children

P.E. and Outdoor Learning

PE this term will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Please make sure that your child's PE kit is in school for that day. Nursery children who attend on those days will need a PE kit or come to Nursery in suitable clothes on that day

Outdoor learning will take place on the mornings of Wednesday 11th and 18th November. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their school sweatshirt on top and a pair of warm trousers eg, jogging bottoms on those days. Nursery children who attend on a Wednesday will need to come to school dressed in suitable clothes for outdoors.

Stay and Play Sessions

We are delighted to invite you all to our stay and play sessions. You will have the opportunity of bringing your child to school and staying for the morning to play with your child as they learn. It will also give you time to get to know other parents and we will even supply tea, coffee and biscuits! These sessions will take place once a month. Toddlers are welcome. Please make note of the dates and times below:

Monday 28th Sept – 8.55am- 11.00am

Tuesday 20th October – 8.55am-11.00am

Wednesday 25th November – 8.55am – 11.00 am

Thursday 17th December- 8.55 am – 11.00am

