



Canon Burrows Primary School Reception Newsletter Autumn 2



We can't believe how quickly this first half term has gone – what a wonderful start to the school year! The children have settled into school life so well, made new friends, and shown great enthusiasm in all their learning. After the break, we have another exciting half term ahead with lots of special events, including Bonfire Night, World Nursery Rhyme Week, Road Safety Week, and of course, the build-up to Christmas. Please keep good bedtime routines in place so that the children return well-rested and ready to learn.

We really enjoyed having you in school for our Phonics Workshops this half term and look forward to welcoming you again at more events next half term. Please see the Reception Dates below for details. We will also be sending home new 'Wow' cards at the start of next half term. The children love sharing their achievements from home, and we can't wait to celebrate them together. For more information about our curriculum, please visit the Reception page under *Curriculum* on the school website. You can also follow our school page on X (@[canon_burrows](#)) for regular updates and celebrations from across the school.

This half term, we will be exploring how other people are unique, learning about the lives of those around us and their roles in our community. We will also be learning about special celebrations including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

Communication and Language—Children will develop their questioning and conversation skills, using new vocabulary and sharing ideas in full sentences. They will perform nursery rhymes for World Nursery Rhyme Week and songs for our Christmas Singalong.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development—We will continue to encourage kindness, sharing, and cooperation. Through My Happy Mind, the children will explore character strengths such as compassion, teamwork, and bravery, and use the Zones of Regulation to understand and manage their feelings.

Physical Development—Children will strengthen their fine and gross motor skills through Dough Disco, creative tasks, and outdoor play. In PE, they will develop balance, coordination, and spatial awareness through fun games and movement activities.

Phonics—This half term we will continue Phase 2, learning new graphemes: ff, ll, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, nk and tricky words: put, pull, full, as, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, push, he, of, we, me, be.

Literacy—Children will practice forming letters correctly, holding their pencil using the tripod grip, and writing CVC words and captions. Our stories include Astro Girl, Rama and Sita, and The Nativity Story, inspiring writing linked to festivals and celebrations.

Maths—We will explore numbers to 5, focusing on composition, one more and one less, and numeral recognition. Children will learn to name and describe 2D and 3D shapes, and use positional language such as in front of, behind, and next to.

Understanding the World—We will learn about the lives and roles of people in our community and how different people celebrate in their own unique ways. The children will explore seasonal changes and continue to develop their curiosity about the natural world.

Expressive Arts and Design—Children will explore rhythm and pulse through singing, music, and dance. They will create artwork linked to our topics and design festive crafts. The term will end with our exciting Christmas Singalong performance.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR RECEPTION

(Whole school dates are sent separately)

Tuesday 4th November: Reception dental hygiene workshops for parents and children in classrooms – **Rainbows (Mrs Jackson) 9:00–9:45am, Stars (Miss Riley) 9:45–10:30am.**

Wednesday 12th November, 9:15am: EYFS World Nursery Rhyme Week performance for parents in the hall.

Week beginning 17th November: Road Safety Week – road crossings (parent helpers needed—more information to follow).

Friday 21st November: EYFS Aspirations dress-up day (more information to follow).

Wednesday 3rd December, 9:00am: EYFS Christmas pantomime at school in the hall – one family member welcome per child (younger siblings also welcome).

Thursday 18th December, 9:15am: EYFS Christmas Singalong for families in the hall. Children to wear a Christmas jumper.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Please check that labels on all clothes, book bags, coats, shoes, wellies and water bottles have not washed off and replace if required.

Please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves for the colder weather, as we will go outside come rain or snow. Joggers will be required for PE lessons.

Please send water bottles each day, filled with water only. On the advice of the dentist, cordial is not recommended apart from with meals. Please support us with this.

Please send book bags into school every day. The children visit the library every Thursday and will bring home a new library book each week (please do not put your child's water bottle inside in case of leakages!)

Healthy snacks are provided in EYFS - please do not send your own.

When your child brings home their first reading book, please aim for them to read it at least five times during the week and enjoy being read to as often as possible. This could be a favourite story, a library book, or even something fun like a magazine or recipe! Don't forget to record all reading in your child's reading diary—this is part of our home learning expectation in Reception. We will also send home phonics information each week on School Spider to help you support your child with what we have been learning in class.



We are only at the end of the phone or email - if you have any concerns, please get in touch.





This half term, we will be focusing on the Christian value of **Compassion**.

'Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility and patience.'

Colossians 3:12

Compassion in the Bible

Compassion is one of the foundations of the Bible as the Bible teaches us to show mercy, sympathy and empathy.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is an excellent example of this. You can read the story in Luke 10:29—37 or watch a version here: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwxm97h/revision/6

A Prayer for Compassion

Jesus help my eyes to see, all the good you
send for me.

Jesus help my ears to hear, calls for help
from far and near

Jesus help my feet to go, in the way that you
will show,

Jesus help my hands to do, all things loving,
kind and true.

Amen

How can you show compassion?



Here are some ideas to support your child to demonstrate compassion everyday. Showing compassion, empathy, sympathy and kindness is a wonderful and heart-warming thing to do.

If your child follows in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan and demonstrates compassion at home or in the community, please share it with their class teacher so we can celebrate this at school too!

Let a sibling go first 1	Say something nice to someone 2	Decorate Kindness Rocks 3	share 4	Play with Someone new 5
Pick up trash without being asked 6	Say sorry if you do something wrong 7	smile at someone 8	Put a dollar on a vending machine 9	HOLD THE DOOR FOR SOMEONE 10
Make a care package 11	Say "good job" 12	Give someone a flower 13	Say hi to someone 14	Volunteer 15
Write a nice letter 16	Give a hug 17	Color a picture for someone 18	Say "thank you" 19	Make a handmade gift 20
Leave a thank you note 21	Clean up without being asked 22	GIVE A COMPLIMENT 23	Let someone else go first 24	Say "I love you" 25