

EYFS Newsletter

Autumn term

Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Theme: Amazing Me & New Beginnings  This half-term, we are celebrating what makes each of us unique as we settle into our new routines, build lifelong friendships, and explore our wonderful classrooms. From discovering our emotions through colourful stories to taking our senses on an autumnal outdoor adventure, we are setting off on an exciting journey to learn all about ourselves, our families, and the amazing world around us!	Theme: Enchanted Woodlands  Step into the woods with us this half-term as we venture into an enchanted woodland world! Together, we will uncover the mysteries of nature, track forest animals, build cosy dens, and watch the seasons change as the days grow colder. Packed with magical storybook adventures, sparkling celebrations, and festive cheer, it is going to be a captivating term full of discovery and wonder!
Book opportunities: These are some of the books we will be exploring, listening to and enjoying during this topic.	
	
Reading and Writing:	Reception
Nursery Throughout the Autumn term, our little learners will be laying the foundations for reading and writing through Phase 1 phonics, interactive rhymes, and exciting sound discrimination games. Children will build a love for books by handling them with care, joining in with familiar story phrases, and tuning their ears to rhythm, rhyme, and initial sounds. To prepare for physical writing, we will be busy strengthening finger and body muscles through daily Dough Disco and gross motor mark-making. As their pencil control develops, children will learn to draw lines and circles, use emergent writing in play, and talk about the meaning behind the marks they create.	In Reception, children will dive straight into formal Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics, learning single-letter Set 1 sounds, early digraphs ("Special Friends" like sh, ch, th), and sight-based "Red Words". Using "Fred Talk", they will blend sounds to read simple words and early decodable Red Ditty books with growing confidence. Parallel to reading, children will build handwriting strength through daily motor activities and learn to form letters using RWI memory phrases. Using "Fred Fingers" to spell, they will progress from labelling pictures with single sounds to writing phonetically regular words and short captions complete with finger spaces.
Maths:	Reception
Nursery Throughout the Autumn term, our Nursery children will build early mathematical skills using the <i>Master the Curriculum</i> framework. They will focus on matching and sorting objects	Following the NCETM <i>Mastering Number</i> and <i>White Rose Maths</i> schemes, Reception children will spend the Autumn term securing a deep understanding of numbers up to 10. They will

by different attributes, creating simple repeating patterns, and building number confidence by counting and subitising (instantly recognizing) quantities up to 5. Children will also begin exploring 2D shapes, using positional language, and comparing real-world objects using early size, length, and capacity vocabulary.	practice rapid subitising within 5, learn that each number is "one more" than the last, and explore how numbers are made up of smaller parts (such as seeing 6 as "5 and a bit"). Beyond number, children will compare sets of objects, duplicate complex patterns, name 2D and 3D shapes, and explore practical concepts like mass, capacity, length, and time.
Physical development: Throughout the Autumn term, children in Nursery and Reception will be developing their gross and fine motor skills through exciting physical play and target practice. Gross motor focus will be on building strength, balance, and spatial awareness as children navigate outdoor environments, dodge obstacles at speed, climb equipment safely, and practice stopping, hopping, and catching. Parallel to this, daily fine motor activities will build finger strength and coordination. Children will progress from multi-finger pincer grips to a comfortable, functional tripod pencil grip, mastering small tools like safety scissors, tweezers, and cutlery while gaining full independence with coats, shoes, and self-care routines.	Communication and language: Throughout the Autumn term, children in Nursery and Reception will develop their spoken language, listening, and comprehension skills through rich daily conversations, story-telling, and interactive play. Children will learn to follow classroom routines and multi-step instructions, moving from basic two-part directions to independently completing full morning sequences. Sitting together for carpet inputs and shared reading, they will listen attentively to short stories, anticipate key events, and answer "Who", "What", and "Where" questions about texts. In their speech, children will transition to using full, descriptive sentences with conjunctions (such as <i>and</i>, <i>because</i>, or <i>so</i>). They will also begin using talk as a practical tool to express their feelings, share personal experiences, solve minor conflicts, and assign roles during collaborative role-play.
Expressive Arts and Design: Throughout the Autumn term, children in Nursery and Reception will explore their creativity through hands-on art, media, and music. In visual arts, children will move from large-scale, free mark-making and exploring primary colours to deliberate observational drawings, precise brush control ("dip, draw, wash, wipe"), and deliberate colour mixing. They will manipulate malleable materials like dough and clay using pinching, rolling, and thumb-pot techniques, while using loose parts and recycled materials to construct purposeful 3D models and transient art. In music and performing arts, children will sing songs from memory, keep a steady pulse, and explore dynamics (loud/quiet), tempo (fast/slow), and pitch (high/low). They will also experiment with percussion instruments to match feelings, represent story characters, and perform short routines together.	Understanding the world: Throughout the Autumn term, children in Nursery and Reception will make sense of their community, history, and the natural environment through hands-on exploration and rich discussion. They will share stories about their families, discuss key similarities and differences between traditions, and explore past events in their own lives using family trees and photos. Children will also closely observe local seasonal changes as autumn arrives, while developing early technology skills by using simple cause-and-effect tools and operating digital devices with adult guidance to retrieve information or create digital pictures.

Suggested home learning activities:

- Singing nursery rhymes
- Reading stories before bed
- Oral blending and segmenting (I can see a c-a-t, cat!)
- Counting games (Counting when climbing stairs or how many trees we can see in the park!)
- Fine motor activities (playdough, scissors, threading)
- I spy games (I spy with my little eye something beginning with s...)
- Mark making
- Letter formation (Reception)
- Weekly RWI phonics link on class dojo (Reception)
- Homework Folders (Reception)