

Reception Autumn Term Newsletter



We have had an amazing start to Reception. It has been lovely to see so many smiles on their first few days. The children have settled into Reception classes well and have been enjoying exploring their new classrooms and the outdoor area. We have had fun building relationships with each other and making new friends. We take pride in our school uniform and all children have looked really smart—

Thank you!

Mrs Ross & Mrs Bishop

RB: Mrs Bishop and Mrs Southcott RR: Mrs Ross and Mrs Wilson

Snack times

During snack time children will be offered milk, fruit and starchy snacks. They can also have a drink from their own water bottles if preferred.

Labelling

It is really important that all children's clothes and belongings are labelled. Although we teach the children to be independent, it is difficult to get the correct belongings to children without a name in them.

PE and Reading Time/books

PE will be on **Wednesday** until October half term, after this it will be on a Friday. Children can wear suitable clothes for wild Wednesday with trainers for PE in the morning. (see below)

Please remove your child's earrings if they wear them.

Wednesday will also be the day that they will have the opportunity to visit our library or additional time to share stories in their classroom with their peers. This will also be the time they will exchange their library book.

Ruth Miskin Phonics

Your child will take part in a daily Ruth Miskin phonics session. Children will bring home phonic sound cards every week to learn. These will be sounds that have been taught in their phonics lessons. Please practice reading these sounds with your child at home. This will support them to have a strong start on their reading journey. More information about phonics and how you can use these cards at home will be included in our phonics workshop. A date will follow soon.

Wild Wednesdays

Please send your child in appropriate clothing for messy outdoor play every Wednesday. We will be spending the afternoon in the school garden learning through outdoor exploration. As the weather turns you may consider sending wellies that your child can keep at school to use during all their outdoor play.

Reading Records

Please ensure that each time you share phonic sounds or share a book with your child, you are adding a comment in their reading record for the class teacher to see.

Love of Reading

Our focus text this term is "Peace at Last" by Jill Murphy. We will share this story and explore themes around the story during this time. If children have any favourite stories at home around the theme of family and the home we are happy to share these.

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Morning arrival and collection

We have a one-way system in place. Please can you follow this to ensure entering school and dismissal is a smooth transition for all children and adults.

There are always members of staff to greet the children at the beginning of the day. If there are any messages, please pass them on to the member of staff at the wooden gate. Teachers will be in their classrooms settling the children into school routines. If you require a conversation with the class teacher please call the office where an appointment can be made.

Dismissing children at the end of the day always takes a little longer at the beginning of the year as we get to know you, please be patient with us and give us a wave so we can identify you in the playground. We ask that all parents/guardians wait on the bottom part of the playground when collecting children to ensure we can see everyone and dismiss children safely. Please inform us if somebody different is collecting your child as we will not be able to dismiss them unless they are on the collection list. In this instance you will be contacted by a member of the Early Years Team.

We do politely ask that children do not play on the equipment and with resources in the Early Years playground as they are set-up for learning to take place.

A Little Reassurance

It has been lovely to see the majority of children coming into school happy, with huge smiles on their faces. For some children the first few weeks in Reception can be a little overwhelming and they may find it difficult at times separating from their parent/carers.

To reassure you, this is normal and once they are through the door it doesn't take them long to settle. You may find them a little more sleepy at the end of the day too, so an early bedtime routine always helps to make sure they are ready to learn at school.

Sharing our learning:

We have included information about our topics and themes on the next page to support you to talk to your child about their learning.

Investigation Stations

Who am I? Chatterbags

Create a self-portrait exploring different materials.

How can we change Porridge?

Exploring maps and recording journeys

Design a chair/bed/home using a variety of materials - which is best? Which material would you choose for a _____.

What is Autumn?

Exploring senses/festivals/events and celebrations

Wow words

Family members; Mum, Dad, brother, sister, Grandma/Nanny, Grandad, Auntie, Uncle, step-parents/brother/sister, cousin
Baby, adult, senses; taste, smell, touch, feel, hear, see, move, grow

Healthy, hygiene, diet, build, construct, walls, roof, door, windows, garage

Love, caring, help, home, love, respect, pride,

This half term we are learning all about ourselves, our families, our homes and Autumn.

We will be focusing on building relationships, learning routines, rules and expectations of behaviour all through our school values: Respect, Pride, Independent, Challenge and Resilient.

The children will be exploring themselves and the world around them creating their self-portrait and talking about their family, their home and the season of Autumn. Throughout the Autumn there is also a variety of festivals and events that we will be learning about including Harvest and Halloween.

Super Me!

Dates: 3rd September - 23rd October 2026



Home challenges

What can you tell me about you?

Find photographs of you as a baby and your parents/grandparents - Discuss differences and similarities. Draw a picture of your family.

Using junk modelling - Make a hard chair for Daddy Bear.

Make lumpy porridge for Mummy bear.

Go on an Autumn walk

Draw a map of your journey to school

I can...

- follow rules and routines
- listen for short amounts of time
- talk about me - I am..... I can
- talk about my family
- use my senses to describe what I can see, hear, smell, feel
- tell you about a story

Questions to Ask

What do you look like?

Who is in your family?

What does a family home look like?

What is a home? How are they the same?

How are they different?

What can you see?

What can you hear?

What can you feel?

What is Autumn?

What changes can you see?

Stories to share

Our Class Family
The Colour Monster
Worrysaurus
The Worry Monster
Our First Day at School
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
What I Like About Me
I'm Special, I'm Me
Peace at Last
Little Red Riding Hood
Only One You
The Three Little Pigs

Investigation Stations

Design and make a sparkler

Design a Mendhi or Rangoli pattern

Construct a home for a nocturnal animal

Create a circuit

What is day? What is night?



This half term we are learning about 'Light and Dark'. This will be through the exploration of different celebrations and scientific ideas. The children will be exploring making fireworks and making sounds of fireworks. Children will have the opportunity creating electrical circuit and will be talking about nocturnal animals. They will be looking at a variety of nocturnal animal homes, comparing similarities and differences and discussing hibernation. We will have a go at creating homes for the animals. The children will explore a variety of celebrations; Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes), Diwali (the Christmas).

Light and Dark

Dates: 2nd November - 18th December 2026



I can...

- talk about Bonfire Night
- talk about the festival of Diwali
- recognise and name nocturnal animals and their homes
- name a variety of light sources
- explore light and dark in a dark area (cave)
- retell the Christmas story



Questions to Ask

How do you celebrate with your family?

Which countries celebrate Diwali?

Who celebrates Diwali?

Why do Hindu's celebrate?

Why are some animals nocturnal?

What is hibernation?

Can you list a variety of light sources?

How does a light bulb work?

How is a shadow created?

Who celebrates Christmas?

Why do they celebrate Christmas?

What was Christmas like when your parents/grandparents were little?



Wow words

celebrate, Diwali, Rama and Sita, diva, villain, hero, Gunpowder plot, Guy Fawkes, Parliament, explosion, bonfire, firework

nocturnal, hibernate, Autumn, Winter, changes, crunchy, rustle

light, dark, source, circuit, electricity, current, shadow, torch

celebrate, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, baby, Bethlehem gift, God, frankincense, myrrh, gold, camel

Home challenge

Make a diva

Collage a nocturnal animal - hedgehog, owl, fox

Design and create a shadow puppet

Retell the Christmas story

Stories and songs

Room on the Broom

Story of Rama and Sita

Story of Guy Fawkes - The Gunpowder Plot

Ouch

The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark

The Very Helpful Hedgehog

Information books about a variety of nocturnal animals

Neil Armstrong - Little People and Big Dreams

Christmas story

Can't You Sleep Little Bear

