



Bramham and Shadwell Federation

Curriculum Newsletter: Class R November to December 2025



Literacy

Reading

During their daily RWI phonics session children will learn to:

- Read all single letter sounds;
- Play lots of games that involve 'Fred talk' (sounding out and blending words together such as c-a-t.)
- Blend sounds to read short 2 or 3 sound words e.g. in, red, yes.
- Read Special Friends: th, sh, ch, qu, ng, nk, ff, ll, ss, ck.
- Practise reading all single letter sounds and Special Friends **speedily** and begin to read them in words.

At the end of each week, newly taught sounds will be shared with you via Tapestry.

Writing:

- The focus will be on pencil grip and accurate letter formation.
- Children will learn to segment words to spell using 'Fred fingers'.
- Children will have the opportunity to practise their mark making skills through adult and child initiated independent challenges.

Comprehension

- We will continue to read a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books.
- The children will answer a range of how and why questions to check their understanding of the stories read.

Mathematics

In **Number** the focus will be on numbers to 5. The children will: Sing counting rhymes to develop their number sequence skills;

- Continue to count a variety of things as well as things that can't be seen (e.g. sounds);
- Sing counting rhymes to develop their number sequence skills;
- Recap that the 'stopping number' tells them 'how many' altogether;
- Continue to practise 'subitising' (i.e. seeing without counting) and will use these skills to spot smaller numbers hiding within 3, 4 and 5.
- Investigate composing and de-composing numbers to 5 through practical activities.
- Use the language of 'more than' and 'fewer than' to compare quantities.
- Explore using pairing to compare whether they have 'an equal number' of objects in 2 sets.
- Explore representing numbers to 5 using both their fingers and a 5 die frame.
- Continue to develop their understanding of 2D shape.

In **Pattern** the children will continue to develop their understanding of 2D shapes and repeating patterns.

Understanding the World

This half term the theme is 'Winter and Festivals'.

We will continue to observe seasonal changes outside linked to Autumn and Winter. They will harvest the class sunflower seeds and turn the soil ready for sowing of new seeds.

We will look at different festivals including Bonfire Night, Hanukkah and Christmas.

- The children will further their scientific knowledge about living things through exploring signs of the Mysterious Creature in the Secret Garden:
 - They will revisit the Secret Garden and review the evidence they have found.
 - They will document their evidence using a choice of languages: photos, talk, early writing, observational drawings, videos.
 - They will collate their evidence in a report which they will send to the Ministry of Mysteries.
 - They will use their critical thinking skills to problem solve:
 - What does their evidence tell them about the Mysterious Creature?
 - Does their current theory (the Mysterious Creature being a Blue Dragon) stack up to the evidence they have found.

The children will have picture news assemblies with a topical focus. This will help to develop their understanding of British Values.

Communication and Language

This half term the children will:

- Share stories linked to festivals and Winter.
- Continue to recap and retell the story of Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle and begin to innovate upon it.
- Listen to a poem about Bonfire night and create a class Bonfire Night poem.
- Continue to hold regular Mystery Events Team ('MET') meetings to review the evidence we have found in 'The Secret Garden' and what it tells us about the mysterious creature.
- Learn and retell the Christmas story.
- Put on a nativity production.

Each half term the children will learn to retell a selection of nursery rhymes. This half term our rhymes are: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Pat-a-cake Pat-a-Cake, and Five Little Snowmen.

Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their **gross motor skills** and be physically active through the daily provision of large building equipment, water channel resources, obstacle courses, sand, mud and water play, den making and large-scale painting activities.

In PE lessons the children will develop their ball skills including their control, accuracy and receiving of the ball.

Exciting **fine motor** activities will be provided to support children's developing pencil and scissor control. They will also continue to build upon their weaving skills in our art workshop.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will:

- participate in circle times to discuss current issues, play games and to take turns listening to one another.
- learn about being safe: firework safety, road safety; and how to be safe in the dark.
- take part in various anti-bullying week activities.
- Learn about our behaviour system, 'The Best'. We will focus on one behaviour expectation each week, beginning with 'T for Teamwork.'
- continue to use key vocabulary to explain how they are feeling as well as exploring strategies to help them manage big emotions.
- participate in Celebration Assembly every Friday in the school hall. If your child has been chosen as the **'Star of the Week'** you will be informed the week before and invited to attend the assembly.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will:

- engage in lots of imaginative role play linked to the festivals of Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas
- explore colour mixing, cutting, colouring/shading using a variety of materials including paint, paste and textiles.
- participate in singing and movement lessons each week and practise for their nativity performance at the end of term.

Here are some helpful reminders of the resources you can access at home to support your child's learning and key vocabulary that we would encourage you to explore with your child to help them with their learning.

Literacy	Phonics homework - Weekly RWI phonics homework will be posted on Tapestry at the end of each week. - Please support your child to access these fun resources and videos to support your child in reading and writing sounds speedily and blending and segmenting words. Reading homework - Reading books (this will initially be a sound blending book) will begin to come home with your child as soon as they can recognise 16 single letter sounds and orally blend. Reading books will only come home as and when the Reception Teacher is happy that your child can confidently read it. - Your child will be given a plastic reading wallet containing their reading book and reading record, which will be put in your child's school book bag. - The reading books will be changed as your child progresses through the RWI scheme and the day the books are changed will vary from week to week. It is therefore important that your child has their reading wallet in school every day. - Please read with your child regularly and add a note to their reading record each time you do. Library Books - On a Friday your child will bring home a library book, this should be returned the following Friday so that your child can choose a new library book. Children will be required to return their previous library book before being issued with a new library book. - Please note that the library book is a 'reading for pleasure book' that the children can share with you; they are not expected to be able to read this book to you, although they may enjoy pointing out sounds, spotting red (tricky) words, and blending CVC words that they spot. - Please support your child by sharing stories with them regularly.
Maths	- Online access to Numbots – you will receive your log in's later this half term. - Spot numbers whilst you are out and about - Count objects in and around your home and the local environment - Talk about 2D shapes that you spot
Understanding the world	Key vocabulary: Home, Family, School, Community, Diwali, Hannukah, Christmas, Christianity, Judaism, special, God, Hindu, hibernation, light, dark, night, day, nocturnal, camouflage, habitat.
Expressive arts & design	Key vocabulary: Nature, natural materials, explore, join, fix, twist, weave, thread, under, over, yarn, loom, bobbin.
Physical Development	Target: put on and zip up coat independently. Challenge: Do up and undo buttons on trousers and cardigans
PSED	Key vocabulary: safety, safe, unsafe, trust, honesty, teamwork, empathy, bravery, engage, sad, happy, angry, excited, calm, resilience, perseverance, emotions, transition

Other ways to support at home:

- Play games together:** Playing games together such as board games, card games and puzzle games can strengthen key skills such as problem-solving and resilience building.
- Promote writing:** Looking for opportunities to write can be a great way to apply spelling knowledge and writing skills as well as to practise handwriting – shopping lists, family occasion cards etc.

Our PE day will be on a Monday. Please could children come into school in PE kit every Monday.

Every child should bring a named water bottle to school each day.

Monday 10th November

Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 12th November 9.15am

Coffee Morning drop in with local support Services

Friday 14th November

Children in Need

Wednesday 12th November 9.15am

Coffee Morning drop in with local support service

Friday 28th November

INSET day - school closed to children

Tuesday 9th December 9:20am

Reception Nativity Performance

Tuesday 16th December

Rec & Y6 xmas party

Friday 19th December

The last day of term - return Monday 5th January

