

Reception Newsletter – Term 2 – Celebrations



Wow! Where has the time gone? We hope you had an enjoyable autumn break. The new term has already started in earnest and it has been fantastic to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm. The Winter Season and Christmas is fast approaching, but before we get there, many exciting things are planned, all linked to the overall theme of 'Celebrations'. Our daily routine remains the same with several short periods of adult-led teaching on the carpet, followed by longer periods of child-initiated play opportunities where the children can put this new learning into action. There are a variety of resources that are always available for the children to use. Alongside our focused activities each week, enhancements are also added to the environment, based around our focused texts or the children's own interests. On the next page, we have summarised our key learning for you. Don't forget that we do have an open-door policy and are very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Key Information:-

- As winter approaches, the weather will change over the coming weeks and your child should have a coat in school every day. They will be asked to wear this during all outdoor opportunities. Please practice taking it on and off with them and doing the zip up too. When your child takes their jumper off, it would also be really helpful if they could practice turning this the correct way around before they put it in the jumper box.
- Just a reminder to ensure that all items of clothing are named. This includes individual gloves and socks. If your child does not have a pair of welly boots in school or waterproof trousers for OPAL play at lunchtime, then please try to do this as soon as possible, ready for those 'wet and muddy play' opportunities! Please also check that your child's bag of spare clothes is fully stocked, particularly if we have had to use anything last term. This does not have to be uniform, just clothes that your child will be comfortable in if they need to change.
- Reading books that your child brings home for you to 'share' with them will continue to be changed weekly. In addition to this, they will receive two books each week that they will read 'to you'. These will be changed on the same day as their general reading book. Please do write as many comments as you possibly can in your child's reading record about these books alongside any other books that they read too, so that we can get an idea of how they are progressing at home. Books will be changed when we can see that they have been read a number of times at home. Please try to encourage your child to keep their water bottle separate from their bookbags, just in case of any spillages on their books and belongings.
- P.E. will continue to be on a Friday and your child should be wearing their P.E. kit to school. As the days get colder, please feel free to send your child in wearing a pair of dark blue/black tracksuit bottoms instead of shorts! Our P.E. focus for this half term is to learn how to jump and land safely in a variety of ways, linking jumping with running, all with developing coordination.
- Maths Workshop – Monday 30th November 2026 at 2pm in the school hall, followed by time 'doing' some Maths in the classroom with your children. The aims of the session are to give you a better understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage Maths curriculum and what we teach in Reception, to show you some of the resources we use and how they support your child's maths learning in school, to give you an opportunity to 'do' some Maths and to give you some ideas of how you can support your children at home.
- Please ensure that your children are not playing with any equipment, or are on any part of the Reception Outdoor Area before and after school.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learn how to accept that everyone is different.
- Explore what characteristics make a good friend, and how we need to listen to one another.
- Show an understanding of why different people celebrate different things.
- Showing respect and tolerance towards others.
- Learn how to help others and to solve problems.
- Learn how to use kind words, giving and receiving compliments.

Communication and Language

- Talk about celebrations and events in their own families/lives.
- Make comparisons between different festivals (Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night, Christmas).
- Make comments about their observations talking about why things happen using some new vocabulary.
- Listen to and talk about different traditional stories, including the story of the First Christmas.

Physical Development – Jumping

- To explore how to jump and land safely on the ground or off an object.
- To develop how to jump vertically/forward, in different directions and making different shapes with control.
- To develop coordination when trying to link running and jumping together.

Understanding the World

- Term 2 sees us focusing on a variety of different historical events, such as Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day, St. Andrew's Day and Christmas. We will understand that many familiar stories took place before the children were born.
- In Science, we will be doing some Christmas baking, exploring how the ingredients change, when mixed and baked.



Celebrations

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Expressive Art and Design

- Exploring colour – we will make our own colour wheel and focus on the artist, Wassily Kandinsky.
- Joining – we will use glue sticks, tape and PVA glue to join materials, using different tools.

R.E.

- How do Christian people around the World celebrate Christmas?
- This will include our nativity performance in the final week of term.

Literacy

- We will be sharing lots of non-fiction texts this half term to learn about the key celebrations of Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. We will also share the story of the First Christmas from a variety of sources.

Key things to focus on are:-

- Holding a book correctly, turning the pages and indicating an understanding of the pictures and print. This could include looking for key phonic sounds and tricky words.
- Retelling a story using picture prompts in books.
- Talking about the events and characters in books.
- Making predictions about what might happen next.

Phonics

- We will learn the phonemes**:-** ff,ll,ss,j,v,w,x,y,z,zz,qu,ch,sh,th,ng,nk.
- We will also learn the tricky words:- put, pull, full, as, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, push, he, of, we, me, be.
- Our final focus will be on plural words, understanding that the 's' sometimes makes a 'z' sound.

Diary Dates

- Monday 30th November – Maths Workshop at 2pm in the school hall, followed by a join in session in the classroom.
- Tuesday 15th December – Nativity Performance at 2.15pm. Wednesday 16th December – Nativity Performance at 9.30am.

Maths

- We will continue to learning about subitising – recognising smaller quantities without counting.
- We will develop a deeper understanding of the composition of numbers within 5.
- We will learn about a variety of 2D shapes such as circles, triangles, rectangles and squares, using our observational skills to find these in the indoor and outdoor environment.
- We will use positional language such as on top, in and under.