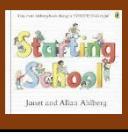
Hallam Primary School

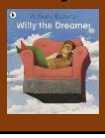
Reception Curriculum Newsletter

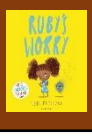
Autumn 2026

Literacy

Our topic this half term is 'This Is Me.' We will be reading stories about what makes us special and talking about our similarities and differences. Here are some of the stories we will read, alongside non-fiction texts...







Read Write Inc Phonics

In phonics we will be learning how to recognise and read sounds using 'Read, Write, Inc.' We will focus on set one sounds. We will be learning to recognise 'red' words that can't be phonetically decoded such as: I, the, he and she.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

We are encouraging the children to become more independent. They are taking responsibility for their own possessions e.g. putting away their book bags, water bottles and coats. We are making new friends and also building relationships with the adults in school. We are selecting our learning resources and most importantly putting them away afterwards. We are also beginning to learn about the Zones of Regulation and what our feelings mean.

Communication and Language

We are learning to listen and respond to simple instructions and how to use language to help us to make new friends. We will be learning to talk about the activities we have taken part in at school during 'Growing Time' at the end of the day. We will also be working to increase our sustained attention for a period of time e.g. carpet time or group work.

Physical Development

We will be developing our fine motor skills using playdough, paint and scissors. We are beginning to develop our pencil control and trying very hard to hold a pencil correctly to write our names and other letters that we are learning in Phonics. We have continuous access to our outdoor classroom and will be developing our gross motor skills using the playground equipment such as balance bikes, climbing frames, obstacle courses and many other exciting opportunities.

We will also follow 'Get Set 4 PE' on a weekly basis. Our first topic is based around basic PE skills such as finding a space, sharing resources and working as a team.

Maths

We will be learning the days of the week and how the weather changes according to the seasons. We will also be looking at 2D shapes and their properties and also building with 3D shapes. We will have fun comparing and creating patterns with shapes. Using the number sense approach, we will be mastering numbers up to 3 including subitising, representation and composition.

Understanding the World

We are investigating our outdoor classroom and the changes in nature as autumn arrives. We will be discussing our families and people who help us within the community. We will talk about past and presents events in our lives.

Expressive Arts and Design

We are learning how to independently access the creative areas in the classroom such as model making, role play and painting. We will be singing a range of songs and rhymes, dressing up and exploring rhythm and sound using our musical instruments.

Extra Information

- Please label all clothing! (Including shoes.)
- Uniform – please ensure you follow the uniform guidance Uniform | Hallam Nursery & Primary School
- Encourage your child to dress and undress independently (including fastening their coat).
- Send your child with the appropriate clothing /protection for outdoor play.
- Bring a labelled water bottle to school each day.
- PE will take place on Fridays. Please come to school wearing PE kit on this day, preferably in their house coloured t-shirt.
- Here is the link for information about the statutory baseline which will be carried out in Autumn 1: Reception baseline assessment: information for parents
- If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.
- Homework will be sent out every Friday, please can this we returned on or before Wednesday.
- If you need to speak to school during the day, please contact school on 0114 2304430 or email info@hallam.school

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How can you help?

The children love to use 'junk' for their creations. If you have the following we would love to add them to our craft area;

- Cardboard tubes e.g. kitchen roll holder, toilet roll holder etc
- Plastic pots (washed) e.g. yoghurt pots, dip containers etc
- Plastic lids and milk tops
- Cardboard boxes
- Egg boxes
- Milk cartons (washed)

We politely ask that before school starts and when the children leave the classroom they DO NOT get any equipment out. We teach the children to respect the classroom both indoor and outside and therefore we have tidy up time at the end of each session. We also have a rule that children DO NOT get equipment out unless they have asked a grown up from school, especially from under the shelter. We have lots of lovely resources and unfortunately our staff are having to re tidy and even clear away broken resources after the children have left to go home.

We kindly ask that you do not let your child or their siblings in the sand pit before school or after school. This is inline with the school health and safety policy.

Finally!

We would love to display photographs of children and their families within the classrooms. Can you please send in a photograph (if you haven't already done so) of your child and their family at your earliest convenience.

Thank you

Mrs Hurst, Miss Matthews, Mrs Symonds and Mrs Luxmoore