



Calke Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2– November 2025

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Welcome Back & Updates

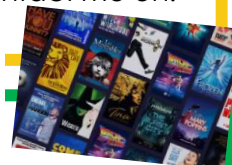


Welcome back Calke class. This half term is definitely going to be filled with lots of fun and exciting opportunities despite the weather getting chilly and the dark nights creeping in, we will be making the most of each and every day! In the run-up to Christmas, we will be creating and making lots of festive crafts while learning about the concept of giving. We are going to explore 'In Rehearsals' across all areas, whether that is band practice, theatrical performance or our dance skills.

Check out **Evidence for Learning** for photos of the fantastic work your children will be completing this half term, and keep an eye on our social media pages, too!

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to contact me on: Bethany.hill@ivy.set.org (Class Teacher)

Key Concepts and Skills



Our topic for this half term is a very exciting one - 'In Rehearsal', where we will be exploring a range of performances, including circus' and stage plays. We will be exploring a personalised sensory story called 'Calke at the Circus', where we will encounter clowns, acrobats and fire performers as well as the different smells, sights and tastes that often fill a circus tent. We will also be delving into the world of theatre in a more immersive and focused communication and expressive arts session. We will be engaging in the changes that occur in autumn and winter before beginning our creative Christmas bakes and crafts! In cognition, we will be acting as theatre technicians with the lights and CD player alongside all things circus and winter props!

Communication remains at the heart of all we do, and our pupils will have endless opportunities to tell us what they want and need by using TOBIs, symbols, switches, Makaton and of course, their loud voices!

Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have a snack, please send it in with them or use Arbour to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro day is a **Tuesday and Wednesday morning** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space. Please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo.



Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day and ensure you send appropriate warm clothing now it's getting much colder.

Thank you

Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Cognition/Communication



In Cognition, we will be using performance as a motivator, pretending to be theatre technicians, whether that is on stage or behind the scenes.

At home, you could play musical statues with your child, focusing on the key words "go" and "stop".

When you stop the music, will your child move their body independently to indicate they want the music back on?

PSHE



In PSHE, we will be learning about 'Finances', and we will be exploring the process of buying different items we may like and/or need.

We will be using a resistance band to practise scanning items through a checkout, using our communication skills to exchange our money for the items we would like/need.

At home, you could visit a local shop or explore money (coins, notes, bank cards, etc).

Christmas

Wollaton Hall are hosting their annual Winter Light Trail, a stunning event. Your child will be entitled to a free carer ticket, and there is a changing places toilet located in the lower courtyard.



Christmas Baking



There's no better way to celebrate the festive period than to do some baking!

Shortbread is so easy to make, and helps develop our fine and gross motor skills, too!

Here is a simple, vegan, recipe to follow, and you can then decorate as desired! –

[Vegan Shortbread - Wallflower Kitchen](#)

Reading

We all love a good book or audiobook on YouTube!

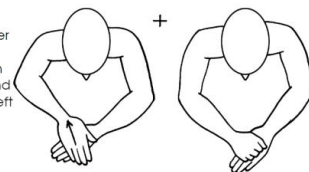
Here are some books you could read together that link to our topic:

- Paddington at the Circus 🐻 [Paddington at the Circus | Paddington Bear Kids Book Read Aloud](#)
- It's Winter <https://youtu.be/MUVN4qYSNB4?si=usY9uNHxmiiK4dVg>

Makaton Signs

Christmas

Slide right hand over back of left hand towards body, then close right hand and place on back of left hand



Circus