



Diamonds Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Autumn 1 September 2025

Welcome back, Diamonds!

We hope your summer was filled with fun, laughter, and lots of special memories! We're so excited to have you all back and can't wait to kick off the new school year with plenty of exciting learning and joyful moments.

I'm Jordan, the class teacher in Diamonds this year, and I'm absolutely thrilled to be starting this journey with you. The beginning of a new school year can sometimes feel a little overwhelming, so over the next few weeks, we'll be focusing on settling in, rebuilding routines, and most importantly, building strong, positive relationships that will support our learning all year long.

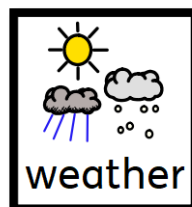
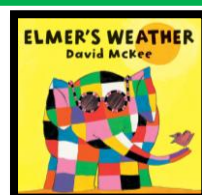
If you ever need to get in touch with me, please don't hesitate to email me at:

Jordan.Thompson@ivy.set.org

Here's to an amazing year ahead!

Key Concepts and Skills

Communication is at the heart of everything we do, and our pupils are encouraged to use a wide range of strategies, whether it's through gesture, signing, TOBIs or symbols to express themselves, connect with others and fully engage in their learning. This half term, we're diving into the delightful story of Elmer's Weather to support our exciting new topic, "Whatever the Weather!" Through Elmer's colourful adventures, pupils will explore a variety of sensory-rich experiences, from feeling the wind and rain to experimenting with sunshine and snow. These activities will support our early handwriting lessons and offer plenty of opportunities for creativity, discovery and fun. Most importantly, this story-led approach will help us build strong, positive relationships with our new Diamonds pupils and staff, making learning meaningful and enjoyable for everyone. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch!



Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, please use Arbor to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.



This half term our hydro day is **Thursday** 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, thank you.

Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Cognition

To support our weather story adventure at school, you might like to explore different types of weather at home, too!

Here are a few fun ideas you can try together:

- Head outside and notice how things feel—what does the grass, a rock, or a stick feel like in different weather? Can you smell anything new in the air?
- Use a fan to explore the feeling of wind.
- Try playing with cold ice—does your child enjoy the texture, or is it something they'd rather avoid?
- Enjoy some water play at home! Using "Ready, Steady, Splash" can be a great way to explore cause and effect through splashing, pouring, and stirring.

We'd love to hear about the weather adventures you have at home, feel free to share them with us!



PSHE



This half term in PSHE, we'll be exploring the theme of **touch**, a keyway we connect with others, communicate, and make sense of the world around us. As part of this, we'll be using **Story Massage**, a calming and engaging approach where children experience positive touch through gentle massage strokes paired with storytelling.

Story Massage helps to support **relaxation, communication, and emotional wellbeing**, and the sessions are always enjoyed by our pupils.

If you'd like to try Story Massage at home, we'd be more than happy to send you some information.

Communication



During all our activities, we are always encouraging students to communicate, whether it's expressing likes and dislikes or letting us know when they've finished. Through our weather exploration activities or sensory massage sessions, there are so many natural opportunities for children to share how they feel. Is your child signing **more** when exploring water? Are they **pushing away** the cold ice, or asking for more? However, your child communicates through gestures, sounds, signs, symbols, or actions. It's always exciting to see them expressing themselves.

We'd love to hear how your child is using these opportunities to communicate at home too!

Physical Development



Physical development is a key part of our daily routine. We support this through morning exercises, physiotherapy, and sensory diets, all of which are designed to help students move their bodies and build strength. This is further supported through our PE sessions and fine motor activities like using our hands for writing or exploring sensory materials.

To continue this development at home, there are lots of fun ways to get moving! Messy play is a great opportunity—try using jelly, slime, or anything that encourages your child to use their hands and feet to explore textures and movements.

Getting outdoors and experiencing different types of weather is another fantastic way to support physical development. Being outside gives children the space to run, stretch, jump, and move, which all help to build their gross motor skills in a natural and enjoyable way.

Library

On Wednesday afternoons, we'll be visiting our **Train Library** to enjoy some lovely reading time and get lost in all the wonderful books it has to offer.

Each week, your child will be bringing home a book they've chosen to share with you. We hope you enjoy reading it together and talking about their exciting find!

We kindly ask that the book is returned to class the following week, so your child can swap it for a new one when they're ready.

Happy reading! 📖

Key Signs

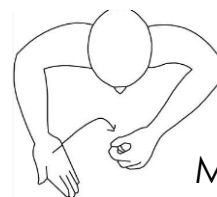


Pat chest gently

Like



Finished



More

Makaton Signs for Colours



Red



Yellow



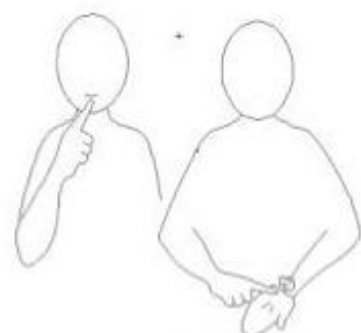
Pink



Green



Orange



Purple



Blue



Black



White