



Emeralds Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Autumn 1 September – 2025

Welcome Back & Updates

Welcome back Emeralds Families and a special warm welcome to our new families joining us this year!

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer filled with fun and laughter! We certainly have a busy and exciting half term ahead, with our topic focusing on **"Whatever The Weather!"**. Our little Weather reporters are setting off on a sensory-filled journey to explore a variety of different weather conditions—right in our classroom! Through touch, sound, sights, and even smells, we'll explore all the amazing ways weather shapes our world. And the best part? We'll be making new friends and sharing this exciting learning experience together. Get ready for giggles, discoveries, and lots of fun as we start our new school year!

If you have **any questions** or need to get in touch, please email myself Rachel.Whittaker@ivy.set.org **Rachel Whittaker – Class Teacher**



Key Concepts and Skills

Our Weather Watchers Are Ready!

This half term, we're setting off on an **exciting** weather-themed adventure! The children will be exploring the world of weather through a wide variety of fun, multi-sensory activities designed to spark their curiosity and support their learning. From splashing in puddles to feeling the breeze and making our own indoor "snow," our hands-on experiences will encourage movement—both big and small—to support **physical development** in a playful and meaningful way. **Communication** remains at the heart of everything we do. Each child will be given regular opportunities to express their likes, dislikes, and choices using the methods that work best for them—whether that's through sounds, gestures, switches, symbols, or touch. If you would like any support with your child's communication at home, we're here to help—just let us know!



Reminders / additional information



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

This half term our hydro day is **Tuesday** 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.



Our **library** day is **Wednesday**, please ensure your child has their book bags and that you have written in the reading diary.



Cognition and Maths

In Emeralds, we love creating meaningful experiences through simple **cause-and-effect** activities. This half term, why not try some **weather-themed** play at home? For example, **water play** is fantastic! Encourage your child to make independent splashing movements or to hold and squeeze a sponge to release water and bubbles. It's a wonderful way to explore **cause and effect**, and it can even turn bath time into a fun, sensory adventure! These small moments of play help build your child's understanding of "If I do this, then this happens" while sparking curiosity and fun.



PHSE



This half term in **PSHE**, we'll be learning all about **touch**—a key part of how we connect with the world around us. Using **Story Massage**, the children will experience different types of touch through simple, soothing massage actions that go along with storytelling. If you'd like to try a Story Massage at home, we'd be happy to send a sheet home—just pop a note in your child's **school diary**. You can also find some lovely examples on **YouTube** by searching "Story Massage Programme."



Communication

In addition to our PSHE home learning activity, you can help support your child's communication skills during **Story Massage** sessions at home. As you explore the different massage actions together, encourage your child to express their **likes and dislikes**. You might notice them showing excitement for certain actions—this is a great chance to model or encourage them to request "**more**". Likewise, if they show signs of disinterest, you can support them in communicating "**finished**". It's a lovely way to build both connection and communication.



Physical Development



In Emeralds, we absolutely love getting stuck into **messy play**! It's a fantastic way for us to engage both our **fine and gross motor skills** while exploring a world of exciting textures and sensations. Whether it's squishing, squeezing, splashing, or stamping, we use our **hands and feet** to discover all kinds of sensory stimuli. You could try using a mix of **wet** materials like water, jelly, or foam—or **dry** ones like rice, pasta, or sand. It's a great way to support your child's development through play and exploration!



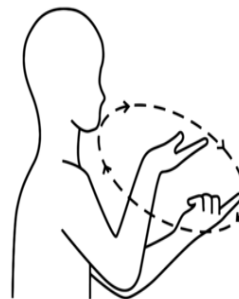
Reading

This half term, we're diving into a magical collection of books that spark imagination, laughter, and wonder. Story time is one of our favourite parts of the day! Why not continue the adventure at home? Some of our books this half term include;

- The Weather Girls by Aki
- Tap Tap Boom by Elizabeth Blueume



Makaton signs



Story



Rainbow