



# Emeralds Class Newsletter

Working together to

**inspire nurture empower**

**Autumn 2 November – 2025**

## Welcome Back & Updates

### Welcome Back, Emeralds Families!

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break! We're thrilled to be starting another action-packed half term, full of **exciting** learning opportunities and engaging activities. **Don't forget** to stay connected and up to date with all the amazing things happening in our classroom by checking the **EFL** app regularly. It's also a great way to share any home learning or special moments from your half term – we love seeing what our Emeralds have been up to! As we head towards the **festive season**, get ready for plenty of sparkle, creativity and **seasonal cheer**. We've got a glittering line-up of fun, festive activities planned – it's going to be a magical half term!

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 curious explorers are embarking on another sensory-rich adventure as we dig deep into our new topic: **Underground!** This exciting theme will take us on a journey both beneath and above the surface, with a range of hands on, underground inspired activities happening **both inside and outside the classroom**. From discovering what lies beneath our feet to observing the wonders above ground, children will have the chance to meet some wriggly bugs – and maybe even some fluffy new friends! Throughout the term, we'll continue encouraging each child to **communicate** in their own unique way, expressing preferences and making choices during engaging activities like planting, digging, and bug hunting. We'll also be whipping up some delicious root vegetable soup using switches to blend our ingredients – a fun and accessible way to develop **fine motor** skills. Alongside all this, our weekly **PSHE** sessions will focus on self-care, support, and staying safe, helping to build confidence and independence in everyday routines. It's shaping up to be a term full of exploration, discovery, and lots of **muddy fun!**



## 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 thrive on creating meaningful experiences through **cause-and-effect activities**—whether it's knocking down towers or engaging in messy play, we love exploring how actions lead to reactions. At home, you could build a tower using bricks or blocks and invite your child to explore knocking it down - using their hands, feet, or even by rolling a ball—for a fun and active way to discover cause and effect.



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## Communication

**Communication** continues to remain at the heart of everything we do in Emeralds. We would love to hear about your child's communication at home! Support your child in communicating their **likes and dislikes** during activities you do together. It could be as simple as them choosing a story to share. If possible, please upload any photos to the **EFL** app—we'd love to share them in class!



## Reading

This half term, we're diving into a magical collection of **books** that ignite imagination, laughter and a sense of wonder. Story time is one of the most cherished parts of our day, where adventures come to life and imaginations soar! Some of our books this half term include;

- Percy the Park Keeper by Nick Butterworth
- The Gigantic Turnip by Katie Daynes



## PHSE



Our focus is on Self-care, Support and Safety. Through the calming and engaging technique of Story Massage, children will explore different ways they can keep themselves safe throughout the day, using simple massage movements. We'll also be practising essential self-care routines like **hand washing** and **tooth brushing**—key skills that help build independence and healthy habits.



These are great activities to reinforce at home, too! Together, we're helping our children feel confident, safe, and supported in their daily routines.

## Physical Development



In Emeralds, we absolutely love **Dough Disco!** It's a fantastic and fun way for our children to develop both their **fine and gross motor** skills through movement, music, and, of course, play dough! Whether it's squishing, squeezing, splatting, or rolling – our little learners are fully engaged and having a brilliant time. Why not bring the disco home? You can find Dough Disco videos on YouTube – it's an easy, energetic activity to enjoy together. Want to take it a step further? Try making your own play dough at home! Add food colouring or different scents to make it even more exciting and sensory-rich. **Let the disco begin!**



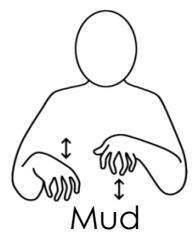
## Makaton signs



Worm



Vegetables



Mud