



Little Gems Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Summer 1 – April 2026



Welcome Back & Updates

Hello and welcome back Little Gems families, we hope you have had a restful break. I am very excited to be joining your little ones on their learning journey in Little Gems! **We have a busy and fun filled half term ahead of us!** During this time, as well as getting to know each other better, we will continue to enjoy our themed **music sessions** with Matthew. For the whole of the summer term, we will be having our very own weekly **'Kimbles'** – Music and Movement sessions which are highly motivating and fun for all!

Please keep a look out on the **'Evidence for Learning'** app to see all the **amazing work** and activities that your children will be involved in. 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 Topic This Half Term – The Fair!** ✨ ❄️

This half term, our classroom is stepping into the exciting world of 'The Fair', filled with colour, sound, and sensory adventure! We will be enjoying the story **Dogger** by Shirley Hughes, brought to life through engaging sensory storytelling and interactive experiences. Children will explore a range of sensory activities designed to develop **fine and gross motor** skills, encouraging curiosity, movement, and hands-on discovery. We are also looking forward to our Fair-themed dance massage sessions, combining music, movement, and touch for a fun and engaging experience. Across all activities, children will have plenty of opportunities to develop **communication** skills, expressing their likes, dislikes, and preferences in meaningful ways. In **Cognition** and Maths, we will continue to build understanding of cause and effect through switch toys, fairground games, and sensory resources that promote engagement and independence.



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, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro days are **Monday** and **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. Our **Library** day is **Wednesday**, please ensure your child has their book bags to exchange their books for a new exciting story!



Cognition and Maths

Cause and Effect!

In Little Gems we love messy play! In class we have been using our physical skills to explore a variety of sensory stimuli both wet and dry. You could support your child to fill and empty containers of rice or to use their hands and feet to cause an effect in the rice by moving it around or any other stimuli your child enjoys.



PSED

Intensive Interaction!

You could try some shared mirror play at home. Copy your child's expressions and any vocalisations they make. Name different emotions as you make the relevant faces, e.g., happy, sad, silly. Alternatively, try a hand or foot massage and talk about how it feels, e.g., "That feels nice", or "Oh that feels cold" repeat your child's responses back to them. Focus on shared attention and connection.



Communication Let's talk!

Communication is at the heart of everything we do in Little Gems! During playful interactions, use your child's individual communication method to encourage them to express the word "more". Whether through gestures, sounds, signs, words or expressions, every effort is a meaningful step toward confident communication! If you need any help with this at home, please feel free to contact us.

Expressive Arts

Natural Art!

Now that the weather is improving why not go for a lovely walk in the local park and collect a few items from nature, e.g., leaves, sticks, flowers to touch/smell. Once home you could print with them using paint or simply make a nature treasure basket full of wonderful things to explore.



Literacy Stories!

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! What is your child's favourite story? Could they bring in a book from home to share with their friends? Or maybe upload a photo onto EFL of you sharing a story at home.

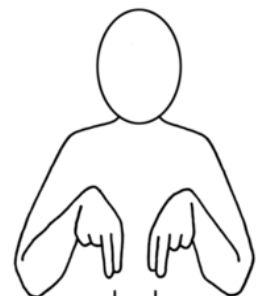


Makaton Signs



Hands clasp
upper arms

Teddy



Dog