



Shaw
Education
Trust

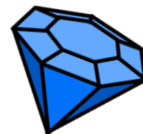
Sapphires Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Autumn 1 September 2025

Hello & Updates

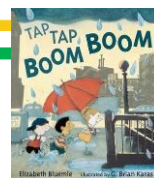


Welcome to a New School Year in Sapphires Class!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer, filled with joy and time spent doing what makes you happy. As we begin this exciting new school year, I'm thrilled to welcome you and your child to Sapphires Class! My name is Bali, and I am excited to be your child's class teacher this year. I am also the Primary Assistant Headteacher. I'm truly looking forward to the year ahead and all the learning, growth, and fun it will bring. Over the next few weeks, our focus will be on settling in, building strong relationships with our new class team, and creating a warm, supportive environment where every pupil feels safe, valued, and ready to thrive. I can't wait to get started and see all the amazing things we'll achieve as a class community. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

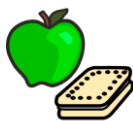
Key Concepts and Skills



Encouraging our pupils to be able to communicate their likes/dislikes/choices is at the heart of everything that we will be doing in Sapphires. We will promote a range of communication strategies, so that each pupil has a voice at all times throughout the school day. We will also be getting physical on a daily basis and developing both our gross and fine motor skills. Our topic this half term is 'Whatever the Weather' and our book is called 'Tap Tap Boom Boom' by Elizabeth Bluemle. This is a lovely rhythmic story that will be brought to life through a fun filled multi sensory approach. Overall, this half term is about the pupils building positive relationships with their new peers and new staff. Please look out for all the lovely photos of your children's learning on EFL and don't forget to give us a 'like' on the socials.



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 **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** 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, as we love to get messy in Sapphires! Thank you.





Cognition and Maths

'Whatever the Weather' Through Sensory Play

Play. There are so many exciting sensory props and textures that you and your child can explore together as we explore the different weather elements. Sensory play is a wonderful way to support learning, build curiosity, and encourage communication. Here are a few ideas to spark your imagination at home:

Sunny Weather

Sunshine Sensory Bottles: Fill bottles with yellow glitter, water, and oil to mimic sunlight sparkle. **Lemon Scented Playdough:** Engage touch and smell with bright yellow, citrus-scented dough.

Rainy Weather

Rain Sound Shakers: Create rainsticks or use rice in bottles to mimic rain sounds. **Umbrella Tent:** Set up an umbrella with hanging ribbons or water beads for tactile exploration.

Snowy Weather

Cold Sensory Trays: Use crushed ice, snow dough (baking soda + conditioner), or frozen objects for tactile play. **Minty Snow Foam:** Shaving foam with peppermint essence for a cool, snowy feel.

Windy Weather

Fan Play: Use handheld or electric fans to blow scarves, feathers, or bubbles.



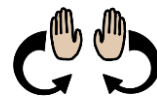
Communication



Reading weather-themed books with your child encourages shared enjoyment, communication, and the discovery of new language. Using sensory props and expressive storytelling helps pupils to engage, respond, and connect with the story in their own way. Another book that is a lovely weather book is "Wow! Said the Owl" by Tim Hopgood – A colourful exploration of the sky and weather through a curious owl's eyes.



PSED



This half term in PSHE, our topic is 'Changing and Growing' with a particular focus on 'touch'

We will be exploring this theme through participating in a weekly dance massage where pupils will be encouraged to communicate their likes/dislikes to different types of touch.

Physical Development



Aswell as your child's personalised Physiotherapy or MOVE programme at home, another great way to promote both fine and gross motor skills is through messy play! It's fun and motivating. Here are a few messy play ideas to try at home:

Painting with hands, feet, or sponges

Bubble popping games – encourage reaching.

Most importantly—have fun and celebrate every movement!

Key Signs



More



Finished

Library

We will be visiting the library every **Friday**, and your child will be bringing a book home each week to share with you. Please enjoy reading it together and kindly return the book by the following Friday so your child can choose a new one. Happy reading!

