



Shaw
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Trust

Sapphires Class Newsletter

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inspire nurture empower

Autumn 2 November 2025

Welcome back and Updates

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second half of our Autumn Term in Sapphires Class. This half term, our topic is 'Celebrations'. We will be exploring joyful events through sensory stories, music, and creative play. Our core books are 'The Scarecrows' Wedding' by Julia Donaldson and 'Alfie's Birthday Surprise'. These stories will be brought to life through a multi-sensory approach to support engagement and communication. Our PSHE focus is 'Managing Feelings', helping pupils to recognise and express emotions. In Cognition, we will explore celebration-related objects and develop understanding of 'making something happen'. Look out for all the exciting learning on EfL, and don't forget to show us some love on social media!



Key Concepts and Skills

This term pupils will be engaging in a rich and exciting range of activities. In communication, they'll be expressing their preferences through gesture, vocalisations and symbols while enjoying sensory stories and songs that bring language to life. Cognitive development will be supported through the exploration of celebration-themed objects like balloons, candles, and party hats, alongside cause-and-effect activities such as pressing buttons to activate lights, sounds, or movement. As part of our PSHE focus, pupils will explore feelings like happiness, excitement, and calm, and take part in calming routines and joyful celebrations. Physical development will also be a focus, with gross motor activities like dancing, movement, balloon play, party games, and fine motor opportunities through exploring and baking party treats, unwrapping gifts and making marks in sensory stimuli. We look forward to a joyful and sensory-rich term ahead full of a range of celebrations!



Reminders / additional information



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.



Our Library day is **Friday** so please send in your child's library book so they can change it each Friday.

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

These activities are designed to support meaningful engagement through sight, sound, touch, smell, and movement. Follow your child's interests, give them time to respond, and continue to celebrate every interaction!

Cause and effect through musical or light-up toys. Use switch-adapted toys, light spinners, or sensory buttons. Pause between actions to give your child time to anticipate and activate their preferred responses.

Treasure basket with celebration items. Fill a soft basket with sensory-safe items: crinkly wrapping paper, textured ribbons, soft party hats, bells, or foil confetti. Explore each item slowly, allowing your child to choose or respond to their favourites.

Box of surprises. Offer wrapped sensory objects (foil, fabric, bubble wrap) to open with support. This supports exploration and cognitive skills such as anticipation and curiosity.



Communication



Reading 'Celebrations' themed books with your child encourages shared enjoyment and communication. Using sensory props and expressive storytelling helps pupils to engage, respond, and connect with the story in their own way. Here's some ideas for a lovely story called 'Alfie's Birthday Surprise' by Shirley Hughes. Explore a bag of party items like ribbons and balloon. Hang or wave bunting and fairy lights to create a party atmosphere. Smell cake-scented playdough and pretend to blow out candles with bubbles or a fan. Play "Happy Birthday" and say "Surprise!" to watch for your child's reactions. Wrap and unwrap a favourite toy using crinkly or textured paper. How does your child communicate more or finished?



PSHE

This half term in PSHE, our focus is on 'Managing Feelings'.

We'll be exploring this important topic through a delightful sensory story called 'Alfie's Birthday Surprise'. As we follow Alfie's journey leading up to his birthday, we'll discover the different emotions he experiences along the way. This will help us learn to recognise, understand, and talk about our own feelings too.

Physical Development



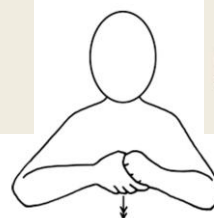
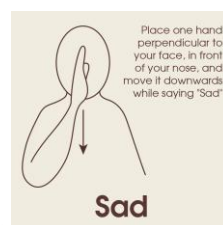
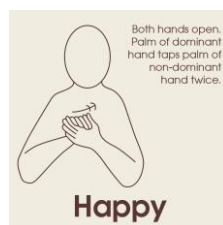
Scented playdough and sensory trays. Provide soft, scented playdough (lavender, lemon) for squeezing, patting, or pressing. You can embed beads, sequins, or small textured shapes to encourage tactile exploration.

For mark making use shaving foam, or coloured gel in a tray. Support your child's hand or finger to make swirls.

Gently brush soft balloons or colourful scarves over your child's hands, arms, or face. Encourage them to track, touch, or push objects.

Most importantly—have fun and celebrate every movement!

Makaton



Friends