



Little Gems Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Autumn 1 – September 2026



Welcome Back & Updates

Welcome Back, Little Gems! ✨

A very warm welcome back to all our Little Gems families, and an extra-special welcome to the new families joining us this year! We hope you have had a fabulous summer filled with making lots of special memories. We have a busy and exciting half term ahead, packed with wonderful opportunities for our Little Gems to explore, discover and learn together. We will be spending lots of time getting to know one another, building relationships and settling into our exciting new routines. Alongside our everyday learning adventures, we will enjoy our **weekly music sessions** with Matthew, splash and explore in the **hydro pool**, and choose exciting new stories from our **train library** each week! We can't wait to see all the fun, exploration and learning that this half term will bring and to share these special moments with you along the way. Please make sure you can log in to the '**Evidence for Learning app**', where we will regularly share updates, photos and special moments from your child's learning journey.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to email me at Rachel.whittaker@ivy.set.org. – Class Teacher



Key Concepts and Skills

✨ Our Topic This Half Term – Super Duper You! ✨

In Little Gems, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework, which is made up of seven exciting areas of learning: **Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Literacy, Mathematics, Expressive Arts, and Understanding the World**. Throughout the year, your children will enjoy a wide variety of fun, engaging and sensory-rich activities designed to support their development across all seven areas, while celebrating their individual interests, strengths and achievements. This half term, our exciting topic is "**Super, Duper, You!**" We will be exploring what makes each of us special and unique, discovering the things we have in common and celebrating the wonderful differences that make us who we are. We can't wait to see our Little Gems shine, explore and discover just how SUPER they are!



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, especially if they do not attend on our regular hydro days. Please include a costume/trunks, **2 towels** and some body wash/shampoo. If your child can walk, please include a spare pair of sock to be worn in the pool. Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day, thank you. Our **Library** day is **Friday**; 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 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.

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. 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!



Understanding the world

Natural treasure basket!

You could collect different natural objects on a walk around your local area, such as pinecones leaves, flowers and bark. Place them all into a box or tray and encourage your child to explore by feeling and smelling the contents whilst talking to them about each one.



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, where adventures come to life and imaginations soar! Some of our books this half term include;

- Super Duper You by Sophy Henn
- Elmer by David McKee



Makaton Signs



Mirror



Me