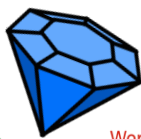




# Sapphires Class Newsletter



Working together to

**inspire nurture empower**

Autumn 1 September 2026

## Hello & Updates



Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break, enjoyed the glorious sunshine, and are feeling refreshed and ready for another fantastic year in Sapphires. My name is Sarah, and I am delighted to be your child's class teacher this year. I'm so excited to be back in Sapphires with your wonderful children, and I know this is going to be an amazing year filled with exciting learning opportunities, new experiences, and plenty of fun along the way. This half term, we will be focusing on settling back into school, getting to know our new routines and timetable, and, most importantly, enjoying learning together. Our priority is to help every child feel happy, confident, and ready to thrive. Be sure to check Evidence for Learning regularly to see photos and updates of the fantastic activities and achievements your children will be taking part in throughout the half term. You can also keep up to date by following our social media pages. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and working together to make this a happy, successful, and memorable year for every child. We are looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!



## Key Concepts and Skills

This half term, our topic is "The Lion King" – Roarrrr! We have lots of exciting activities planned, including singing, dancing, and exploring music through our engaging musical sessions. Children will have opportunities to use soundboards, enjoy dance massage, and listen to music from The Lion King alongside other themed songs. These sessions are a fantastic way to encourage communication, giving children opportunities to request "more" or indicate when they have "finished" in a fun and meaningful way. Our focus story this half term is the much-loved classic The Tiger Who Came to Tea. We will bring the story to life through an immersive sensory storytelling experience, allowing the children to explore the story using all of their senses. The story will include a variety of exciting sensory props, including soft fur, water, interactive switches and, of course, lots of food-themed sensory experiences to smell, touch and crunch! These activities will support communication, engagement, exploration and imaginative play while making the story memorable and enjoyable for every child.

## Reminders / additional information



This half term our hydro days continue to be on **Monday** 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 **Thursday** so please send in your child's library book so they can change it each Thursday. Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day, as we love to get messy in Sapphires, and we will be having more outdoor learning this half term.





## Cognition and Maths

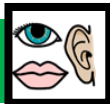
In Cognition, we will be exploring a range of exciting cause-and-effect activities linked to our Lion King topic. The children will have lots of opportunities to develop their understanding that their actions can make something happen by pressing switches to create different effects, such as roaring animal sounds, turning a fan on and off, activating drumbeats, switching on lights, and operating a bubble machine.

We will also enjoy plenty of sensory exploration using a variety of themed resources. Children will investigate different textures, sounds, smells and objects linked to our topic, such as animal fur, leaves, grass, sand, water, natural materials and other sensory items inspired by the African savannah.

These activities will encourage curiosity, exploration, communication and engagement while supporting the development of early thinking and problem-solving skills.



## Communication



We all love sharing a good book or listening to an audiobook on YouTube!

Here are some lovely stories you could enjoy together at home that link to our topic:

- The Lion Inside – Rachel Bright
- The Tiger Who Came to Tea – Judith Kerr
- How to Be a Lion – Ed Vere

Reading stories together is a wonderful way to support your child's communication, language and imagination. Don't forget to use lots of expression, explore the pictures, and talk about the characters and sounds you discover along the way!



## PSED

This half term, our PSHE focus is on 'Things That We Are Good At'. We will be engaged in shared exploration, celebrating our individual strengths and taking turns to participate in activities that reflect each other's interests and talents. This will help the children recognise that everyone has different skills and abilities and encourage them to value and appreciate one another.



## Physical Development



In Sapphires, we absolutely love getting stuck into messy play! It's a fantastic way for us to engage both our fine and gross motor skills while exploring a world of exciting textures and sensations. Whether it's squishing, squeezing, splashing, or stamping, we use our hands and feet to discover all kinds of sensory stimuli.

You could try using a mix of wet materials like water, jelly, or foam—or dry ones like rice, pasta, or sand.

Messy play is a wonderful way to support your child's development through play, encouraging curiosity, communication, creativity and exploration. Don't worry if things get a little messy—that's all part of the fun!

## Expressive Arts

Why not celebrate our learning by creating some beautiful Lion King inspired artwork? Here are a few creative ideas to try at home

