Reception Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 2 2026

Class Teacher – Miss Sudell

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Davison, Miss Hargreaves and Mrs O'Neill

Festivals and Celebrations

In Reception this half term, the children will continue to have fun each day and make the most of their play, as this is a fantastic opportunity for the children to build relationships with others and explore and learn within our indoor and outdoor learning environments. We will provide the children with new experiences and opportunities to explore. We know that children learn best when they enjoy and are interested in what they are learning and therefore our topic learning is decided by the children, based on their interest. The children have talked about the types of things they would like to learn this half-term and together we have voted for the topic "Festivals and Celebrations". Below are some of the learning opportunities we will explore through the EYFS areas of learning.

Communication and Language

- Speak and perform in front of an audience.
- Talk using full sentences.
- Listen to others and show them our attention.
- Ask questions to find out more.
- Talk about celebrations and ways we celebrate.
- Share our thoughts and experiences with others.

Physical Development

- Develop our fine motor skills through daily "funky finger" activities, including learning to fasten zips.
- Use mark making equipment for a purpose.
- Hold our pencil using the tripod grip, pressing down firmly and use accurate letter formation.
- Develop scissor control, cutting in a straight and curved line.
- Develop our core muscle strength and posture when sitting on the carpet.
- Continue our PE adventure with our characters Pippa and Eddie and journey with them on a fantasy adventure, practising and developing our fundamental movement skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

- Consider our own likes and dislikes.
- Consider similarities and differences between ourselves and others.
- Notice our own and others' feelings.
- Recognise ways of looking after ourselves.
- Recognise why forgiveness is important.

Literacy

- Enjoy listening to a range of stories.
- Recognise the beginning, middle and end of stories and sequence familiar stories.
- Recognise and describe settings.
- Draw recognisable pictures of familiar characters.
- Apply our phonics skills to support us to read.
- Write simple words, labels, lists and captions.
- Write our names and some initial sounds.

Our key texts for this half-term will be "Pumpkin Soup" by Helen Cooper and "The Jolly Christmas Postman" by Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg.

Phonics (Level 2 and Level 3)

Through using the Twinkl Phonics scheme, we will:

- Recognise all Level 2 phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (how they are written).
- Learn some Level 3 phonemes and graphemes including some digraphs (two letters that make one sound).
- Segment and blend simple words to support our reading and writing.
- Recognise and remember all Level 2 and some Level 3 "tricky words" (words that cannot be sounded out).

Mathematics

- Recognise 1,3 and 4 sided shapes and notice them in the environment.
- Explore numbers within 5, representing these numbers, subitising, and exploring composition.
- Understand the meaning of one more and one less.
- Notice different times of day.

RE – "Prophecy and Promise" Topic

- Learn how Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus's mother and the angel came to bring Mary this news.
- Recognise that Advent is a time of waiting and getting ready for Christmas.
- Hear the Christmas story, recognising that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, Jesus was born in a stable and the shepherds came to visit.
- Recognise that Jesus came for the whole world and explore ways that Christmas is celebrated around the world.

We look forward to welcoming you to our class worship this term on **Thursday 12 November at 9am**.

Understanding the World

- Recognise different celebrations and ways people celebrate in different countries, cultures and faiths.
- Notice the season of Autumn and describe it.
- Recognise real stories of historical events of the past and why we remember events such as Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day.
- Learn about the religious celebrations throughout the world such as of Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Draw for a purpose, including detail in our drawings.
- Recognise shapes and patterns and be inspired by these.
- Use PVA glue as a way of sticking things together.
- Decorate creations using a variety of materials.
- Explore how colours can be mixed to create new colours.
- Create our own artwork inspired by different celebrations.
- Practice and perform in our first school Nativity!