## Key Outcomes

Our key outcomes for Reception children at Tanworth:

* I am an independent and curious learner.
* I can seek challenge to reach my full potential.
* I can build my resilience by having the opportunity to express and explore my feelings.

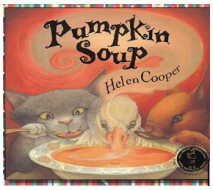
# Reception Newsletter

***"In God's family learning, loving, growing to be our very best"***

**12th October 2026**

## Literacy

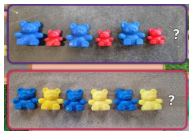
* We have completed our work on the Little Red Hen and ended the week by baking bead just like Little Red Hen. Take a look on Tapestry to see our bread pictures.
* For the next fortnight we will be looking at the story Pumpkin Soup. A lovely autumnal harvest tale focusing on sharing, turn taking and friendship.

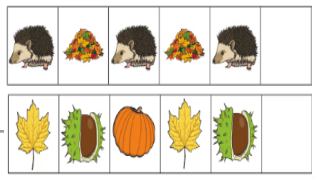



* Children will be using their drawing skills to respond to the story focusing on the animal characters and their special jobs.

## Maths

* Next week we are looking at the composition of numbers to 5 and learning to subitise small amounts.
* We did a great job at sorting different items last week thinking about colour, shape and size. This week we are moving this learning on by looking at repeated patters e.g. AB-ABAB patterns and ABCABC patterns.





## Phonics




* We have learnt the sounds s,a,t,p,i and n. We are beginning to blend these sounds to read words. Our next set is m, d, g, and o.
* Keep an eye out for their orange phonic books, which will be coming home in their book bags this week.

If this sounds confusing to you do not worry! The children will become the experts but if you would like to learn more there will be a parent **Phonic Workshop on Thursday 5th November** 9.15 in the school hall. The children will not be joining us for this workshop.

## Events Calendar

* 16th October Open Classroom 3.15—5.00
* WB 19th SCIENCE WEEK (Whole School)
* 20th Parents Evening—school hall
* 22nd Parents Evening—school hall
* 22nd Last Day of half term
* 23rd INSET Day School Closed
* 2nd November Return to school
* 5th November Phonic Workshop 9.15

## Expressive Arts & Design

***What do we get up to outside of Literacy, Phonics and Maths?***

For the next fortnight in art we will be looking at the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and creating lots of pumpkin inspired art work.




## Understanding of the World

In UoW we will be looking at the celebration of Harvest and the joys of Autumn. In the outdoor area we will be making Autumn potions and setting up our pumpkin café!




## Reading



I hope you have enjoyed reading with your child. I am so proud of how excited they have been to read, they really are developing a love of reading. We do ask that you record a comment in your child's reading record in order for their book to be changed. If you are unsure of what to write please page 2 of this newsletter A quick note is fine!

You can also begin to use their orange phonic book to recall sounds and actions taught in Phonic lessons.

We aim to read with each child at least once a week, often more.

## Reminders, Thank yous and Requests

* Thank you so much for all your Harvest donations they are being sent to the Birmingham Mission. The children went to church for the Harvest festival on Friday and Maddie and Sophie took up our reception offering during the service.
* We are still having children arrive for Outdoor Learning on Thursday mornings without any wet weather clothing or a bag to put their belongings in. The grass is long and children will get wet especially as the weather has recently changed. Please can they come to school dressed in their puddle suit or wet weather gear unless they are at Breakfast club. **NO BOOK BAGS ON THURSDAYS**
* A reminder that long hair needs to be tied up—school colours for bands, headbands and clips only please.

### REQUESTS & DONATIONS

From time to time we may ask for donations to help support our learning. Could we please ask for any donations of pumpkins and squashes and any autumn treasures - conkers, pine cones, acorns etc.





# Reading Comments

As part of our home-school communication, we ask that parents record their child's reading in their yellow reading record.

We will only change a book when we know that it has been read at home. This does not need to be a lengthy comment, but it is always useful for us to understand how your child has read and engaged with the book at home.

Once the children begin to blend sounds together, decodable reading books will be sent home.

Thank you for all the wonderful comments we have received so far. However, if you are unsure what to write, here are a few ideas.

## Helpful Comments for Reading Records






*Instead of: "Good reading." Try:*

"Jack used his phonics sounds to read unfamiliar words."
"Ella was able to recognise the tricky words 'the' and 'said'."
"Amelia could retell the main events of the story."
"Harry remembered what happened and answered questions about the characters."
"Tim needed some support with sounding out longer words but persevered well."
"Grace showed good understanding by explaining why the character felt sad."

*It is also important to know if they found a book challenging.*




"Jack recognised some of the sounds but struggled to blend them into words."
"Sophia was able to name some sounds but found it difficult to read the 'tricky' words in the book."
"Freya enjoyed looking at the pictures but found reading the words challenging."
"Grace found it difficult to maintain concentration and only managed a few pages today."
"Olivia struggled with remembering some previously learned sounds and words."

## Things to avoid when reading at home

**Covering the pictures.**
Pictures are an important part of early reading and help children develop their understanding of the story, learn new vocabulary and make sensible predictions.

**Making your child struggle for too long.**
If they are stuck on a word, encourage them to use their phonics first, but then help them if needed. Reading should remain a positive experience and a shared experience.

**Asking them to sound out every word.**
Encourage them to use phonics for unfamiliar words, but also allow them to recognise familiar and tricky words automatically.

**Rushing through the book.**
Talking about the pictures, characters and events is just as important as reading the words. Rereading books more than once is valuable.

**Correcting every small mistake immediately.**
Give your child time to notice and self-correct. This helps build independence and confidence.

**Compare your child to others.**
Every child develops as a reader at their own pace.