

Year R 2026

Autumn 2 Newsletter

It does not seem possible that already we have completed the first half of the Autumn Term and are now planning to enjoy new exciting learning opportunities as we approach Christmas!

Physical Development

Funky Fingers

Every day the children will take part in a Funky Fingers session. As well as carrying out activities to support their fine and gross motor skills, we are now working on letter formation.

In Play

There will be a focus on using the large construction outside, lifting, carrying and moving things that are a little bit heavier and bigger than we normally play with. We will also be using brushes to sweep up the autumn leaves!

Self Care

Snack Shack will continue – the children have now mastered pouring the cereal and washing up their bowls! As the weather gets colder, the children will be wearing their coats more during the day. Please help your child to practise doing up their own coat – we will be having a class challenge soon to see if we can all do up our coats!

PSED

We will be focusing on our school rules and how we can apply them in the classroom: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Safe

SCARF

We follow a scheme called SCARF to focus on PHSE in Early Years. The unit this half term is 'Valuing Difference'. This will encourage children to be sensitive towards others and celebrate what makes each person unique.



Communication

Listening, attention and understanding

We will be continuing to develop a love of stories, using some familiar stories with repeated refrains (e.g. The Billy Goats Gruff). There will be more focus on following simple instructions to build up independence.

Speaking

In our 'Drawing Club' sessions, the children will be introduced to some new and exciting vocabulary, which comes with matching actions! The words are called 'Get up, Stand Up' words – ask your children if they can remember any!

Literacy – Reading and Writing

Phonics

We will continue to teach Phase 2 Phonics using the Little Wandle scheme. The children are learning many new sounds every day and beginning to blend to read. Tricky words are also included in this session. Please practice your child's Grapheme Cards and Tricky Word booklets every day. Reading Club has begun and the children will be practicing their early reading skills three times a week.

Writing

We will continue to learn some mark making patterns, which helps to build our confidence and fine motor skills as well as starting letter shapes. If you would to practise any at home, so far we have learnt, circles, vertical lines and horizontal dashes We will continue teaching handwriting patterns to match our Little Wandle phonics learning. Writing will be part of the children's play and will be available in all areas of provision.

Maths

In Maths, we continue to follow the Mastering Number curriculum.

The children will be developing their subitising skills to 5 and using their fingers to represent the numbers that they see. We will be exploring a range of activities that support accurate counting. We will also explore the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts' by looking at a range of objects that are composed of parts, some of which can be taken apart and some of which cannot. This will lead us into exploring the composition of numbers to five.

Understanding the World

This half term, the children will be thinking about Angels as part of the RE sessions. We will learn about how they link to the story of the first Christmas. In our Science based sessions we will be learning about materials: sorting and naming the different materials we have all around us. Our History learning will be about Toys from the past and will included a trip to Petersfield Museum.

How you can help your child at home

- Teach your child how to put on and do up their own coat
- Teach your child how to wipe their own nose – really useful with the cold weather approaching!
- Practise grapheme cards and tricky word booklets daily
- Share your child's reading books with them (four times a week is our aim) Enjoy sharing favourite stories together at bedtime
- Count objects around the house, pointing to each object as you count
- Talk about any old toys you may have from your childhood and how they are different to toys today
- Try some early mark making patterns at home: circles, vertical lines, horizontal dashes – these help build up confidence to make marks and develop fine motor skills – use pens, felt tips, pencils, crayons, chalk or paintbrushes in water.

