

Year R Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome to Year R. Each half term we will send you a newsletter outlining the key areas of the curriculum we are focusing on. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child and sharing some exciting and interesting activities with them. The children have settled really well and we are all very proud of them!



Physical Development

Funky Fingers

Once routines are established, the children will take part in a session which will focus on gross or fine motor skills. These activities will help the children develop their gross motor and fine motor muscles which will help develop good pencil control.

E.g. threading, scissor skills, climbing



In Play

Children will also improve their motor skills in their everyday play, using things like large and small construction, dressing dolls and in our weekly PE sessions.



Self Care

Encourage your children to dress themselves – particularly putting on and doing up their own coat

Eating – using the snack shack for a morning snack, using cutlery, opening lunch boxes and food bags

Hygiene – cleaning teeth, brushing hair, toileting



Relationships

The key focus when the children start school will be encouraging them to make relationships with their peers and with the adults. We will ensure the children feel safe, and know who they can talk to if they have any worries or needs.



PSED

We will be introducing our children to our school rules:

Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Safe

They will also hear about our school values:

Kindness, Respect, Resilience

SCARF

We follow a scheme called SCARF to focus on PHSE in Early Years. The first unit is 'Me and My Relationships'. This will look at children's own interests, talking about families and finding out how we are the same or different to others.



Communication

Listening, attention and understanding

We will be aiming to develop a love of listening to stories, and letting the children join in with repeated refrains with our daily story times.



Speaking

The children will begin to learn and use new vocabulary introduced to them through topic work and also our fun and fantastic 'Drawing Club' which will be starting soon!

We will be encouraging conversations with adults or friends whilst we play and learn.

Phonics

We will be following the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme. The children will begin to learn **phonemes** (the sound a letter makes) and **graphemes** (what a letter looks like). They will be learning how to blend these sounds when listening and how to blend them for reading.

We are excited to help them begin their reading journey!



Literacy – Reading and Writing



Writing

The children will begin by learning and exploring lots of mark making patterns with a variety of different media (paint, water, pens, crayon, chalk etc.)

We will also be exploring handwriting patterns to match our Little Wandle phonics learning.

There will be lots of opportunities during play to practise their own emergent writing e.g. shopping lists in the play house, making badges to play a police game

Maths



In Maths, we follow the Mastering Number curriculum.

The children will begin to learn many skills, mainly focused on numbers one to five. This half term they will be learning to 'subitise – use your eyes!' when looking at objects, realising that you do not always need to count small groups of things that you can see. We will be singing many counting songs and counting things wherever we are! We will also focus on 2D shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, and hexagon



Understanding the World

Our focus will be on People, Culture and Communities this half term. The children will be talking to each other about their families, and we will be celebrating the differences between them. We will be introducing the idea that we are all part of a community, and our school is also part of that community.

We will be learning about Harvest, how it is celebrated and why this is special for Christians

Later in the half term, we will start looking at our environment and thinking about how autumn changes the world around us – this will also link with learning about harvest.



How you can help your child at home ...



****COMING SOON****

Your child will bring home a little booklet called 'My Grapheme Book'. All the graphemes (what a letter looks like) we have learnt so far will be in the booklet. Each week, as we learn more graphemes, they will be added to the booklet – usually on a Friday.

Please practise these with your child as much as possible. Practise all the sounds each time, take the cards apart and play games, or leave them on the tag – it's up to you!

This is the beginning of an exciting journey to reading!

Also, you could ...

- Encourage your child to put on and attempt to do up their own coat
- Teach them how to wipe their own nose – useful with the cold weather approaching!
- Read a story to your child every day and enjoy talking about the story together
- Talk about and look at pictures of the people in your family
- Sing counting songs such as 5 Speckled Frogs, 5 Little ducks – you can find many by following this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>
- Look out for signs of Autumn when you are out and about