



Autumn 2 2023

'I wonder how Autumn is magical'



### Welcome Back

What a great first half term the Reception children have had! The children have all started to settle into school well and have begun to get to know all of our rules and routines. We have another very busy half term coming up. Please remember to read our Weekly Learning Overview email to find out what we have been focusing on in our learning each week.

### This Half Term

This half term, Reception will be thinking about all the special times that happen during Autumn. We will begin by reading a new key text, Room on the Broom and learning how to make story maps about a familiar story. During this topic, we will also learn about Bonfire Night and how we can stay safe if we go to watch any firework displays. We will then learn a little about Remembrance Day and in particular, think about why people wear poppies in the month of November. During the middle of November, we will also learn about the festival of Diwali, why this is a special time for some people and how people might celebrate. Towards the end of this half term, our focus will move to learn about Christmas and the story of the Nativity.

### PE

Our Reception children will begin having PE lessons this half term. These lessons will be on Thursdays (from 9<sup>th</sup> November) and will be held in the school hall. We are lucky enough to be able to have our lessons with a dance coach and so this half term's lessons will all be around dance. As we will be inside for our lessons, the children will only need to bring plain black shorts or leggings and a navy blue/red or white t-shirt. Please remember to name everything. Children are welcome to leave their PE kits on their pegs.

### Nativity

In December, the Reception children put on two performances of our Nativity show. These are:

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2:15pm
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am

Due to the hall capacity, you will be able to book two free tickets for the performances. We will send out booking information nearer the time and if there are any leftover tickets, we will let you know for booking additional spaces. Many of the children will have lines to learn for the show. The children will also be encouraged to wear specific costumes. We never expect parents/carers to buy any costume in particular as we have a large range of costumes already in school. We may just ask parents/carers to try to provide a particular coloured T-shirt or some party clothes etc. All information regarding costumes and lines will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Putting on a show can be a little nerve wracking for the Reception children. To help manage this, we try to make the shows as calm as possible. For this reason we would therefore like to ask that only adults attend the performances and alternative arrangements are made for younger siblings.

### Our Garden

As many of you will already know, we are lucky enough to be able to use our Reception garden space all year round and in all weathers. As the weather changes for winter, please can we ask that children have a rain coat in school every day. Please can we also encourage parents/carers to bring in a pair of wellies for children to use on rainy days. These can be kept on the class welly racks, underneath the canopy area.

We would like to remind everyone about the use of the garden equipment before and after school. At drop off and collection times, we ask that the children **do not** use the equipment around the garden, especially items such as the bikes. It can get extremely busy during these times and we need to ensure that pathways and walk ways are clear for families to move around safely. At the beginning of the day, many of the activities are set up ready for us to introduce to the children and at the end of the day much of the equipment will be packed away to protect it from the weather. We are more than happy for children to access the wooden climbing frame and swing for a short time, whilst they are waiting.

### Spare Clothing

As already mentioned, as the weather is changing for winter, this often means that children may fall over in puddles etc. Please can all children have a set of named spare clothes that can be kept on their pegs. Please could these spare clothes also include a set of socks as these often need to be changed if children get wet outside or have a toileting accident.

As it gets colder, many of the children will need to bring in further items of clothing such as coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Please can parents/carers remember to put your child's name in all of the items they bring in to school. This makes a huge difference in being able to quickly return clothing to the right child.

### Class Emails

We would love to hear all about some of the learning experiences and activities our children are having at home. This might be getting a certificate from a sports club, learning how to ride their bike, joining in with some reading at home etc. Please feel free to email in photographs with some brief notes or just an explanation of what your child has been busy doing. Staff will then print these out and pop them into your child's learning journal. Please note that this email address is only for observations, please do not ask questions etc as we will not be able to respond.

Rabbit's email address is [rabbit@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:rabbit@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk)  
Squirrel's email address is [squirrel@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:squirrel@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk)

### Key Dates

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November - ESA Sparkly day (dress in sparkles for hamper donations)	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November - ESA Sparkly Disco
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 5-6:30pm - Open Evening	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need (Dress Spotty!)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November - Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2:15pm - Reception Nativity
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am - Reception Nativity	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December - ESA Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 3:15pm - ESA Winter Wonderland	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 5:00pm - Carol Concert
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner day	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December - Film night

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>After spending our first half term learning all about the rules and routines for life in Reception, we will now be developing our own confidence in making friendships, sharing our ideas and talking to others. As well as building on our listening skills to help us listen well in a variety of situations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Physical Development</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>We will be beginning our P.E lessons in Autumn 2. We will be listening to lots of different styles of music and learning how to move in different ways and in time to a beat. We will also be learning how to perform a short routine.</p> <p>During our phonics lessons, we will be learning the Little Wandle letter formation rhymes to help us remember how to form our letters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Communication and Language</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>During this term we are going to be starting to use story maps as a way of helping us to verbally retell stories.</p> <p>We will also be encouraging the children to answer what, where, when, how and why questions to begin to give reasons behind our answers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Literacy</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>We will be continuing to have key texts, which will be linked to our topic, and be a focus for some of our child initiated learning.</p> <p>Throughout the classrooms and garden, we will be encouraging the children to recognise, read and record the sounds they have been learning in phonics and begin to use these sounds to read and write simple words.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Mathematics</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>This half term we will be investigating capacity and becoming familiar with key vocabulary linked to it such as full, half full and empty. We will then move on to develop our understanding of ordering and sequencing numbers and being able to spot and correct mistakes in ordering.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Understanding the world</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>We will be thinking about Autumn and many of the special times that occur during Autumn including Bonfire night, Diwali, Remembrance day and eventually leading on to Christmas. We will be learning about why we celebrate these and how people celebrate special times.</p> <p>We will also investigate the changes in the seasons and why this happens.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Expressive Art and Design</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Autumn 2</u></b></p> <p>During the second half term we will be looking at how we can use shapes to make pictures and patterns, using different objects such as apples to print and exploring colours and how to change them. We will also be thinking about how we can use natural objects and loose parts to help develop our construction as well as continuing to develop our planning methods</p>		