



## Autumn 2 2026 'Magical Autumn'



### Welcome Back

What a fantastic first half term the Reception children have had! The children have settled into school well and are becoming familiar with our rules and routines. We have another busy half term ahead, with lots of exciting learning planned.

Please remember to read our Weekly Learning Overview email to find out what we have been focusing on each week and how you can support your child's learning at home.

### This Half Term

This half term, Reception will be learning about the special celebrations and events that take place during the autumn season, beginning with Diwali and Bonfire Night.

Our next topic will focus on the key text *Room on the Broom*, through which the children will learn how to create story maps and retell a familiar story. We will then learn about Remembrance Day and discuss why people wear poppies during November.

Towards the end of the half term, our learning will turn to Christmas, including exploring the story of the Nativity.

### PE

Our Reception children will begin PE lessons this half term. These lessons will take place on **Mondays** (from 2nd November) and will be held in the school hall.

To support the development of the children's independence skills, we begin the year by encouraging them to change independently for PE. As lessons will take place indoors, children will need plain black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings, along with a white, red or navy-blue T-shirt.

Please ensure that all items are clearly named. Earrings must be removed before coming to school on Mondays, and long hair should be tied back.

Children are welcome to leave their PE kits on their pegs throughout the half term.

### Reception's Festive Production

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

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2:15pm
- Thursday 10<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.

We never expect parents and carers to purchase costumes, as we have a wide range available in school. In most cases, we may simply ask for a particular coloured T-shirt or party clothes. Further information regarding costumes and speaking parts will be sent out over the coming weeks.

Taking part in a performance can feel a little daunting for some Reception children. To help make the experience as positive and relaxed as possible, we aim to keep performances calm and supportive. For this reason, we kindly ask that only adults attend the performances and that alternative arrangements are made for younger siblings where possible.

### Reading Books

Our Reception children are now bringing home their reading folders each week. These folders include:

- **A phonics reading book** - This is matched to your child's current phonics learning and is intended for regular reading practice at home.
- **A chosen book** - A book for you to enjoy and share together as a family.
- **A reading diary** - Please record a short comment each time your child reads, whether this is their phonics book or another book from school or home. Children will earn a certificate for every 25 reads recorded.

We rely on the support of parents and carers to help look after these books. We have a limited number of phonics reading books, and these are needed each week for our reading groups. We kindly ask that phonics books are returned to school every **Monday**. Reading folders will be collected on **Wednesdays** so that books can be changed and prepared to go home again on **Fridays**.

### Spare Clothing

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, children are more likely to get muddy or wet when playing outside. We therefore ask that all children keep a set of named spare clothes on their peg.

Please ensure this includes a spare pair of socks, as these often need changing if children become wet outdoors or experience a toileting accident. As we move further into the winter months, many children will also need additional items of clothing such as coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Please ensure that all items brought into school are clearly named. This makes it much easier for us to return lost clothing to the correct child quickly.

### Key Dates

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 5:00-6:30pm - Open Evening

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Anti-Bully Week

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December - ESA Christmas jumper day/Winter Wonderland

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2:15pm - Festive Production

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November - ESA Sparkly Day / Sparkly Disco

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am - Festive Production

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas parties

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| <p><b><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></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><b><u>Physical Development</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></p> <p>We will begin our P.E lessons in Autumn 2. We will be focusing on the fundamentals of PE, learning how to control our movements, work together as a team and follow rules linked to games.</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. We will also be continuing with our daily handwriting lessons, working on pre-writing patterns.</p> | <p><b><u>Communication and Language</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></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><b><u>Literacy</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></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><b><u>Mathematics</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></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><b><u>Understanding the world</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></p> <p>We will be thinking about Autumn and many of the special times that occur during Autumn including Bonfire night, 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><b><u>Expressive Art and Design</u></b></p> <p><u>Autumn 2</u></p> <p>During the second half term we will be looking at how we can use shapes to make pictures and patterns, along with 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>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |