

"Inspiring hearts and minds"

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER- CLASS 1

AUTUMN TERM 2025's Topic Titles:

Autumn 1: All about me!
Autumn 2: Let's Celebrate!

TEACHERS:

Mrs Setchell & Miss Carnegie

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Mrs McClimens

In Early Years, the Curriculum is planned, but we are flexible to adapt to meet the children's interests and needs.

Here is an overview of the intended learning for your child's first term!

LITERACY, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:

Phase 1 Phonics

We begin with lots of circle games, songs and rhymes to help 'fine-tune' our listening and speaking skills and this phase carries on while we move onto **Phase 2 Phonics**.

This is where we learn specific sounds.

- Set 1: s, a, t, p
- Set 2: i, n, m, d
- Set 3: g, o, c, k
- Set 4: ck, e, u, r
- Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss



Children will also begin to learn some **Phase 3 Phonic** sounds prior to Christmas.

- j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu



Writing: We do lots of activities to strengthen our arms and fingers for example dough disco, rolling, splatting, poking and generally manipulating play dough to music!

We use a variety of materials for mark-making and encourage children's play writing eg in the role play area. We also begin learning to form the letters from our sets of sounds and those in our names efficiently.

Speaking and listening skills will be developed through children's own play, our ever-changing class role play, small world play, in adult circle and carpet time.



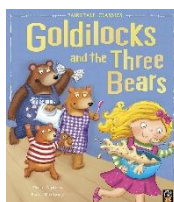
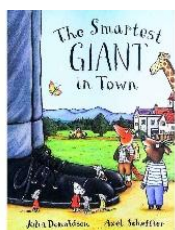
Books, Books and more Books!

Sharing books is a central part of our day. We will share a range of story books, Topic books, Poetry and Rhyme.

Each 'small' term, we will also focus on a different author. Our author for Autumn Term 1 is **Julia Donaldson** and for Autumn Term 2 is **Allan and Janet Ahlberg**. We will also be sharing traditional fairy stories across both terms. We have a weekly story bag session when we 'unpick' the features of a story and draw our own story maps.

Free-choice library books will be sent home to share, then 'guided reading' books, a few weeks in.

More information will follow!



MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING:

Maths is all around us and there are lots of meaningful opportunities in our day-to-day classroom routines and activities which will help children experience number concepts e.g. self-registering, class voting, the day board, dice games and even opportunities like discussing how much water is left in our water bottles-is it half full/full/ heavy/ light?

Junk modelling, construction, water, and sand play also contribute to developing mathematical understanding.

We share regular Nursery Rhyme Number bags to reinforce counting on and back- 1 more/ 1 less.

Our 'focus' maths sessions are always playful with a variety of manipulatives and real-life items to sort/match/count/order/build with. Games and activities will be linked to subitizing, number recognition, formation of number, number patterns with the Autumn focus being on number 1-5 and the bonds within 5.



PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Our themes for Terms 1 and 2 are

'Me and my Relationships' and 'Valuing Difference.'

We will be helping children build constructive and respectful relationships; guide them in identifying and moderating their own feelings and help them begin to develop resilience and perseverance in the face of challenges.

HELPING HANDS:

Each week three children will be the Class 1 'Helping Hands'. This means they are responsible for helping hand out our fruit snack, turning off lights and helping staff with small jobs. We will also be engaging in the whole school anti-bullying week by thinking about what makes a good friend.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN: Dance/Role play/music/Art...

Children have ready access to materials and resources to make their own creations as well as engaging in activities set up by adults.

We have a class art gallery board where children display their works independently.

We explore different art materials and techniques such as dots, stripes, squiggles, clay, dough, printing, painting, and collage.

We will share rhymes and action songs, and dance using voices, bodies and percussion instruments, dance scarves and ribbons to explore sound patterns and match sounds and movements to music.



THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING:

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE:

Help your child:

- Be independent going to the toilet and washing their hands.
- Take their coat on and off and hang it with care.
- Undress /dress with increasing independence (and speed!)
- Be responsible for carrying their own bookbag to and from school!
- Be confident in holding a knife and fork and eating in a respectful way.



SOCIAL SKILLS:

- Encourage eye contact when you give your child an instruction.
- Play games involving turn-taking and gently. teach them that they might not always win!
- Talk openly about your day and encourage them to tell you about their day at school.

READING

- Share picture books with your child.
- As we begin to learn our phonic sounds, guide them with their home phonics book tasks.
- Always say the 'clipped' or most 'pure' sound, which lends itself to word-blending more readily).
- As the 'guided' reading books begin to come home find a relaxed time and place to share these at least 3 times a week.

WRITING:

- As their hand strength develops, gently encourage a correct pencil hold.
- Guide them in forming the letters of their name correctly.
- Let them see you writing using pen and paper, not just using a keyboard/screen.
- Let them help 'play write' at home eg shopping lists and menus.

NUMBERS:

- Share Number rhymes and songs.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

We talk about seasonal change as we move from summer through Autumn and towards Winter.

We look at the story of flour at harvest time and use it to make play dough, bread, salt dough and gingerbread.

We examine Autumn seeds, fruit stones and seeds and plant bulbs.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Our first big question for the Autumn term is:

What is the Shellingford Family? And then in Autumn 2: Why is Christmas special for Christians?

We explore St Faith's Church and participate in the Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas services.

We learn about the people and events in the Nativity story and a highlight of the term is the Class 1 & 2 Nativity Play-

More information to follow!



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT:

Gross motor and fine Motor:

Regular use of bikes, the play trail, push toys, large construction kits, balls, hoppers and balance toys in our continuous provision as well as a weekly adult-led PE session which all encourage energetic movement and help develop strength, balance and coordination and **gross motor skills**.

Children will also have opportunities for regular **fine motor** activities such as dough play, colouring, tracing, tearing, jigsaws, mini construction, and use of a variety of tools such as tweezers, scissors, paint brushes and mud kitchen utensils, all of which help develop hand strength for writing!

VISITS AND TRIPS:

- Regular Forest School sessions are timetabled. We will let you know in advance of the dates.
- We have visits to St Faith's Church as part of our RE learning and for participating in whole school Church Services.
- We also have a whole school Watermill Theatre trip to see The Little Mermaid in December.



- Use the number formation rhymes to help them form their numbers correctly.
- Give real objects- counting out cutlery and laying the table for family members.
- Unpacking the shopping bag and looking at the shape and size of packages.
- Unloading the washing machine-sorting pairs, discussing colours, making patterns with socks!

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:

- We use the **Tapestry Online Learning Journal** to post snapshots of your child's work and play.
- On Mondays, we also post a 'Home School' sheet on Tapestry which outlines the intended areas of learning for that week and tells you any notable events.
- Quick messages can be relayed to us at the school gate, but for any longer conversations please email the School Office so we can arrange a phone call or meeting.
- Parent/Teacher meetings, when we discuss how your child has settled, will be scheduled for the week before October half term.

AND THE ESSENTIALS. . .

Please ensure your child has:

- A PE kit is in school for Mondays.
- A spare set of tights/pants/trousers kept in their PE bag – just in case!
- A water bottle brought daily.
- All items are **clearly labelled**.
- A book bag is brought to school daily, ideally carried to and from school by your child to encourage independence and responsibility.
(Top tip: Attaching a large, easily identifiable keyring to your bag helps your child to locate their bookbag easily!)
- You inform Mrs Ashdown in the School Office of any changes in pick-up arrangements or of contact numbers.
- Wellies to stay in school all term
- Warm/ waterproof coat
- Sun hat
- Sun cream as necessary



We are always happy to give help and advice, so please do not hesitate to contact us and we very much look forward to working in partnership with you!

With best wishes,

The Class 1 Team