

Year 1 Autumn Term Newsletter, 2026

Dear families,

Welcome back! I hope that you had an exciting and relaxing summer and your children are excited about starting the new school year. I have certainly been looking forward to welcoming them back.

This term, we will be studying Julia Donaldson in our English lessons; *Monkey Puzzle*, *A Squash and a Squeeze* and *Naughty Bus*. Within these texts, children will be participating in discussions, playing new roles and building on their vocabulary. In our writing, we will think about how the characters are feeling and describe them using the best words we know. We will re-tell and invent our own versions of these well-known stories, focusing on our sentence structure through using 'colourful semantics' as well remember to use our finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We will then look at a non-fiction text, 'My first Dog Book' by Dawn Bates, and two more stories, 'The Dinosaur Department Store' by R Merritt and L Murray and Gabby Dawnay 'If I had a Dinosaur'. We will be continuing to develop the children's reading and writing skills using these stories and texts. We will focus on using conjunctions to join our sentences, while continuing to embed the use of full stops and capital letters in most of our sentences.

In phonics, we will continue to focus on recognising the individual letters and sounds as well as groups of letters we know and blending these to read words. We will also use these to practise writing words and sentences in our Phonics sessions. We will then learn about the alternative spellings of the sounds we know, practising reading these and using them in our writing.

In our handwriting sessions, we will be focusing on the letter families and capital letters using Letter-Join.

The children will receive two reading books each week; one book will reflect their learning in our phonics sessions, with the second being chosen independently by the children from our library at school. This library book is intended to be one that children choose because they are interested in it and want to read or share it with an adult. It may be too challenging for them to read independently, but it provides an opportunity for them to enjoy the book together with an adult. The children's reading books will be changed once a week, and we will remind the children to put their books and reading record into our reading basket daily for reading with one of their teachers. Please can you ensure the children's books and reading records are in their book bag every day. Please support your child's reading progress by listening to them read at home at least three times a week and recording this in their reading record. We encourage children to explore a wide variety of books, whether chosen from their own collection at home or borrowed from a local library. This will help to develop a lifelong love of reading, and we would love to hear the children share their thoughts and recommendations about the books they have enjoyed.

In maths, the children will be consolidating the learning from Reception and continue to explore the composition of numbers within ten and the position of these numbers in the linear system. Children will also be learning to count forwards and backwards to and from 100

starting from any number, exploring patterns and the composition of these numbers as they learn.

You will find the knowledge organisers attached for history, geography and science. These knowledge organisers provide the key vocabulary children will learn and use in lessons, alongside important facts and information to support their learning. These are a valuable resource to use when talking to your children about their learning. The topics for Autumn 1 are The Human Body and Spatial Sense. Animals and their Needs and Discovering History will be covered in Autumn 2.

In music, the children will be learning to recognise and practise pulse and rhythm. In Autumn 2, children will be focusing on their singing and using percussion to enhance their music skills. In art, the children will be exploring and mixing colours finding a range of tints and shades. They will also be learning about lines and making piece of line art in the styles of Miro and Klee. During design technology this term, we will be making jam tarts, researching, making and evaluating our tarts and learning about seasonal produce.

During life skills lessons, children will be learning about the topics 'Being my best' and 'Me and my Relationships'. The topics which will be covered in computing sessions this term are learning about the technology that we have around us and digital painting. Children will also be using computers and iPads to begin Numbots, a programme that will support the children's maths learning which you can also access at home.

During PE lessons this term, children will be participating in team building games, fundamentals, dance and ball skills. Please note that our PE day is Friday, however the children will be engaging in team building games every day during their afternoon choosing time. If there is a change in the timetable due to school events, we will inform you of the days that children will be required to come into school in their PE kits.

I am really looking forward to the term ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding your child's learning or wellbeing.

Key dates for Autumn Term:

Wednesday 30th Sept - school photo day (individual)

Thursday 1st Oct - school photo day (sibling photos)

Wednesday 14th Oct - Bigfoot Arts Black History Month Workshop Day

Thursday 19th Nov - Flu vaccine

Kind regards,

Miss Baker



Kindness



Respect



Curiosity



Resilience



Self-belief



Responsibility

