

"Inspiring hearts and minds"

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER- CLASS 1

AUTUMN TERM 2025

TOPIC TITLES:

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

TEACHERS:

Mrs V Setchell & Miss C Villar

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Mrs S Sherwood

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

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

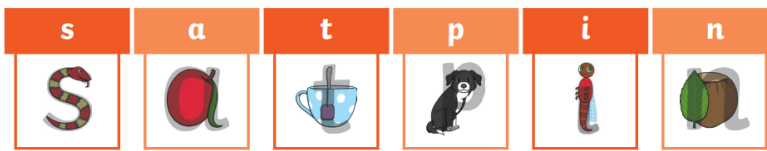
LITERACY, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:

Pre-Phonics

We begin with circle games, songs and rhymes to fine-tune our listening and speaking before moving onto **Phase 2**.

Phonics where children will learn specific sounds and practice blending and segmenting them through games and activities:

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



Children will also begin to learn some Phase 3 sounds prior to Christmas:

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

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

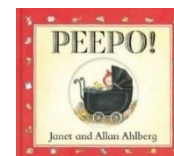
We use a variety of materials for mark-making and encourage children's play writing in the role play area. We will also begin learning to form the letters correctly from our sets of sounds and those in our names.



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

Books, Books and more Books!

Sharing books is a central part of our day. We will share a range of story, topic, poetry and rhyme books. We will also focus on a different author each half-term: Julia Donaldson in Autumn Term 1; and Alan Ahlberg in Autumn Term 2. We will also be sharing traditional fairy stories across both terms. We have a weekly story bag session when we look at the features of a story and draw our own story maps. Free-choice library books will be sent home to share initially, followed by, 'guided reading' books in due course. Please look out for more information.



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 discussing how much water is left in the children's 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 resources and real-life objects to sort/match/count/order/build with. Games and activities will be linked to subitising, number recognition, formation of number, number patterns with the Autumn focus being on numbers 1-5 and the bonds within 5.

We will also be observing and recognising shapes, talking about size, patterns and measure in the environment.



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 handing out fruit snacks, 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 us. We have a class art gallery board where children display their works independently.

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

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

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.



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 in 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 e.g. shopping lists and menus.

NUMBERS:

- Share number rhymes and songs.
- Using the number formation rhymes to help them form their numbers correctly.
- 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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Our 'Big questions' for the Autumn Term are:

- What is the Shellingford Family?
- Why is Christmas special for Christians?

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

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



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT:

Our Continuous provision includes access to the use of bikes, the play trail, push toys, large construction kits, balls, hoppers and balance to. We also have 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 disco', 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 on our school field and in the woods.
- Visits to St Faith's church to explore the building and take part in our whole school church services.
- We also have a whole school theatre trip to see Pinocchio in November.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:

- We use the Tapestry Online Learning Journal to post snapshots of your child's work and play.
- On a Monday, we will also post a 'Home-School Sheet' on Tapestry which will outline intended areas of learning for the following week and 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 after school.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews (PTIs) are scheduled for the week before October half-term. This is a more formal opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school.

AND THE ESSENTIALS. . .

Please ensure your child has:

- A PE kit in school all week.
- A spare set of tights/pants/trousers kept in their PE bag – just in case!
- A transparent water bottle brought into school daily. We ask that its clear so we (and they) can easily see how much they have drunk.
- **All items are clearly labelled.**
- Their book bag 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!)
- Please inform Mrs Ashdown in the School Office of any changes in pick-up arrangements or contact numbers.
- Waterproof coat and trousers
- Wellies
- Warm coat and gloves/hat/scarf
- Sun hat and sun cream



We are always happy to give help and advice, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

We very much look forward to working in partnership with you!

**With best wishes,
The Class 1 Team.**