

Reception Newsletter: 10.10.25



It's been a wonderfully full week of outdoor exploration and discovery. We've deepened our understanding of nature through an autumn ramble, connected with Donya from Peacock Farm via video link, and launched our forest school enrichment with curiosity and enthusiasm.



A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who joined us on Tuesday for our walk along the Red House Ramble. Your support made our very first Reception outing possible, and what a joyful morning it was! The children delighted in spotting wooden animal sculptures created by Alan Wear, spotting signs of our new season, rustling through fallen leaves, and singing a favourite autumn song at the final stop.



Back in the classroom, the children have been busy retelling their adventure—using the sculptures as landmarks to map out our journey. They were also proud to share the nature treasures they gathered along the way, from golden leaves to a carefully chosen fir cone.

We are exceptionally proud of the children, their behaviour was impeccable, and they represented Southridge beautifully. We are hoping to repeat this walk in the coming seasons to appreciate the changes in our environment.

Our autumn walk has sparked a wonderful start to our seasonal learning. Over the coming weeks, we'll be exploring autumn in depth—using our senses to notice changes in the natural world and building our understanding of the season. If you're out and about and your child spots something autumnal they'd love to share—a colourful leaf, an interesting seed, or any other seasonal treasure—please do bring it in. We'd love to celebrate their discoveries together.



Farmer Time! Across school each year group has an exciting opportunity to learn about life on a farm through the different seasons. On Tuesday, the Reception children met Donya from Peacock Farm in Muston, who gave them a glimpse into what it's like to manage her farm. Donya took the children on a tour of part of the farm, she explained that they run an arable farm,

primarily growing wheat but also care for bee hives and have chickens. The children listened well and asked Donya questions about farm life. It was a great learning experience, and we will have another opportunity to catch up with Donya next half term, when they'll be able to find out what's been happening at the farm. This week, we've been enjoying *Little Red Hen*, which beautifully complemented Donya's video tour of the farm. The story sparked thoughtful conversations about Harvest and what it means to give and share. Thank you so much for your generous donations of non-perishable items for our local food bank — your kindness is deeply appreciated.



A huge thank you too for helping your children complete the first entry in their home learning journals. These have been a pleasure to read, and the children have really enjoyed their special time to share their news. The journals will be sent home this weekend and can be kept at home for the next two weeks. We will collect them in again on Monday 20th October and return them to you on 24th October for another two weeks.



To support the prime area of 'Physical Development' each week we continue to provide activities that help strengthen the children's fine motor skills. Clay or Play-Doh is a great activity for home and school. The actions of pushing, pulling, squeezing, pinching and rolling supports the children to 'develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. This may be a lovely activity to try at home or something similar such as baking biscuits, especially on a rainy day.

Phonics

This week in phonics, we've been busy learning the sounds o, c and k while also revisiting some of our earlier sounds: m, a, s, d, t, i, p, and g. To help with practice at home, we're sending home letter formation sheets for the new sounds—feel free to keep these and use them whenever suits you.

It's important for the children to say each sound clearly and gently, using its purest form. This builds their confidence when segmenting and blending VC and CVC words as they begin to read.

Thank you for your continued support. Below are some phonics games you could play at home:

- A 'Sound Hunt' - hide the sounds around the house for the children to find.
- Splat attack - lay the sounds on the floor, then throw a bean bag/bounce a ball on a sound and say it.
- Place the sounds on the stairs and the children can try to say the sound as they tread on the step.
- Hopscotch - chalk some of the sounds on a hopscotch frame.
- I spy - using the initial sound of a word.

There's also a lovely page on BBC bitesize 'Tips to support phonics at home' [Tips to support your child's phonics at home | phonics - BBC Bitesize](#).

Important diary dates and information

Dates:

13.10.25 and 14.10.25 - Parents meetings. We're really looking forward to meeting with you next week and sharing how your children have been settling into school life — such an important milestone for Reception children 😊

20.10.25 - Parent meeting/ workshop at 5pm in the school hall to learn about supporting the children at home with phonics

w/c 27.10.25 Half term

The Christmas performances for our year group

- NPM & Mrs Gendler-Watson's class = Tuesday 9th December 2.15pm
- NAM & Miss Flitcroft's class = Friday 12th December 9.30am

Reminders:

- **Christmas Cards** - The children's Christmas card designs were sent home in book bags on Tuesday this week. Details of how to place an order can be found on the design card itself and orders must be placed no later than 12pm on Wednesday 15th October 2025.
- **Home Learning Journals**. We will be collecting in the learning journals on Monday 20th October to share with the class over the week and then returning them on Friday 24th October.
- **Cool Milk**. Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5th birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊