



Outdoor Learning

What a wonderful week we have enjoyed in Reception. The autumn weather has been absolutely perfect for outdoor learning, giving the children so many rich opportunities to explore with curiosity and creativity. They have loved splashing and experimenting in the water area, painting with water, cooking imaginative creations in the mud kitchen, performing musicals on our outdoor stage and building impressive homes in the large construction zone. We have also seen beautiful quieter moments — cosy reading and chatting in the hut, and detailed mini-homes being created in the small-world area for fairies, dinosaurs and jungle creatures. Our large marble runs have brought plenty of excitement too, with children testing out height, speed and direction and working together to solve problems and refine their designs.

The children are already showing such independence, resilience and growing teamwork. They have been brilliant at managing their outdoor routines — getting themselves ready with wetsuits and wellies and taking pride in being prepared for their learning. It has been wonderful to see how naturally they collaborate, share ideas and build on one another's thinking across all areas of provision.

Our Forest School sessions have been a real highlight this week. The children have enjoyed exploring the woodland area, learning their boundaries and becoming familiar with the routines that help keep everyone safe. They have been using all their senses to explore — listening for woodland sounds, feeling different textures and noticing the sights and smells around them. Their curiosity has really shone through as they investigate natural materials and observe changes in the environment, and their teamwork continues to grow as they work alongside friends, share ideas and support one another during outdoor challenges.

phonics



Over the past three weeks, we've been helping the children get ready for phonics through lots of fun listening games, attention-building activities and fine-motor play. These early experiences are so important for building the foundations they need before formal reading begins. This week, we have started introducing our first set of sounds: **m**, **a**, **s**, **d** and **t**. The children have enjoyed learning how each sound is pronounced and thinking of words that begin with those sounds.

We always remind families that phonics is **not a race**. Every child develops at their own pace, and the most important thing is that they feel ready, confident and enjoy the learning. Our focus is on building strong foundations — helping children tune into sounds, recognise them and begin to blend when they are ready. Simple games such as *I-spy* can be a fun way to support this at home, helping children listen carefully for initial sounds and build confidence. To support families further, we will be holding a **Parents' Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 13th October**, where we will share practical ways you can help at home and how to support your child's readiness and early phonics development.

Other news

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the School Community Beach Clean on Tuesday after school — we had a fantastic turnout. The children worked brilliantly together and collected an impressive amount of litter, showing real care for our local environment. It was a great opportunity for them to make a **positive impact** on our community and the place we live, and we are so proud of the enthusiasm and responsibility they showed throughout.

We also welcomed the school photographer this week for the children's individual Reception photos. They were all so grown up, waiting patiently for their turn and listening carefully to the instructions.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to support our first Reception trip along the Red House Ramble on Friday morning, 16th October — we really appreciate your help. We still have a few spaces available to ensure we meet the required ratios, so if you are able to join us, please let a member of the team know.

Important diary dates and information

13.10.26 - 4.45pm Reception Reading Parent Session *Please note change of date.

16.10.26 - Reception Trip - nature walk along the Red House Ramble.

19.10.25 and 20.10.25 - Parents meetings (further information to follow)

22.10.26 Last Day of Autumn 1

23.10.26 Teacher Training Day

w/c 26.10.26 Half term

2.11.26 - Teacher Training Day

3.11.26 - First Day of Autumn 2 half term

18.12.26 - Last Day of Autumn term

Reminders:

- A little reminder to please keep water bottles out of book bags. They can sometimes leak and make books and belongings wet, and we'd love to keep everything safe and dry.

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊