Reception Newsletter: 22.10.26





Last week, we ended our week with a wonderful walk along the Red House Ramble. The children were fantastic throughout the trip, eagerly spotting signs of autumn, sharing their knowledge of the changing season and excitedly searching for the wooden animal sculptures hidden along the route. We were lucky enough to enjoy some beautiful sunshine, and the children rounded off the walk by singing songs to entertain the wonderful volunteers who had kindly supported us throughout our journey.









Over the course of this week, we have been enjoying a seasonal exploration of pumpkins as part of our learning about autumn and in anticipation of Halloween during the half-term break. The children practised their fine motor skills by hammering golf tees into pumpkins before scooping them out and investigating what they could find inside. We explored the structure of the pumpkin, carefully dissecting and discussing its different parts, developing new vocabulary and making observations about what we discovered. The children have also created their own 'Leaf Creatures' based on the book Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert that we read last week.



As we come to the end of a long first half term, we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of all the children. It is hard to believe how much they have achieved in just a few short weeks. At only four and five years old, they have settled into school life with enthusiasm, resilience and determination, building friendships, developing independence and embracing new challenges every day. Their confidence and growth have been wonderful to see, and they continue to amaze us with their curiosity, kindness and love of learning. We hope they all enjoy a well-deserved rest over the half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming them back for another exciting half term together.

We would also like to thank all of the parents and carers who were able to attend Parents' Evening this week. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet with you and celebrate the many achievements the children have already made since starting school. The main purpose of our autumn meetings is to ensure that every child is happy, settled, and enjoying their first experiences of school life, and it was lovely to share how positively the children have adapted to their new environment.

Safe Arrival Reminder

To help us ensure the safety of all children at the start of the day, please remember that Reception children must be personally handed over to a member of the Reception team at the bottom of the Reception ramp each morning.

Please do not send children across the yard on their own or leave before a member of staff has met them. While we appreciate that many children are becoming increasingly independent, responsibility for their supervision remains with parents and carers until they have been safely handed over to school staff.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep all of our children safe.

Ideas for over half term

Over half term, we will be sending home additional green words to support the children's segmenting and blending skills. These will include CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant), VC (vowel-consonant) and CVCC. If your child is keen, please continue to practise little and often, helping them to recognise sounds and blend them together to read words confidently.

Ideas for supporting maths at home

- Roll a dice and say how many dots you can see without counting.
- Count steps, jumps or claps together.
- Count autumn treasures such as leaves, conkers or sticks.
- Spot numbers in the environment on doors, buses and signs.

Ideas for building fine motor strength

- Play with playdough by rolling, squeezing and pinching.
- Use tweezers or tongs to pick up small objects.
- Practise cutting with child-safe scissors.
- Build with Lego, Duplo or other construction toys.
- Draw, colour and paint using a variety of tools.

Most importantly, enjoy spending time together and celebrating all the wonderful progress your child has made during their first half term at school. We hope you have a happy and restful break.

Important diary dates and information

- 23.10.26 Teacher Training Day
- w/c 26.10.26 Half term
- 2.11.26 - Teacher Training Day (school is closed)
- 3.11.26 - First Day of Autumn 2 half term
- 8.12.26 – Christmas Performance 2.30pm
- 18.12.26 - Last Day of Autumn term

Reminder:
After half term our PE days will be on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Request:
We are collecting **clean, dry recycling** for our junk modelling. Please remember we are a **nut-free school**, so no containers that have held nuts or list nuts in the ingredients. We also cannot accept **milk containers** or **egg boxes**. Thank you for your support.

Have a wonderful half term break.
Take care, The Reception Team ☺