

Year R Curriculum newsletter - Autumn 1 2026



Belonging

In **Phonics**, we will be starting phase 2 “Essential Letters and sounds” which is our whole school phonics scheme. The children will begin to learn the sound that goes with each letter and how each letter shape is formed.

In **Literacy**, we will be sharing lots of books including “What makes me a me”, “The Colour Monster”, “Families, Families”, “The little Red Hen” and “The Little Acorn”. We will also be sharing non-fiction books about Autumn and Harvest time.

In **Reading**, we will be sharing books as a class, in small groups and also starting to look at simple books with individual children. Children will bring home a new book each week to share with you at home.

Respect

Welcome to Year R!

Our topic this half-term is
“Look at me”

In **Communication and language**: We will be practising listening skills through listening walks and games in small groups. We will be encouraging the children to speak through their play and also in small groups where we will play circle time games.

In **SCARF** (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship), we will be thinking about ourselves, the people we live with, who can help us at home and at school. We will also start to learn about our feelings and actions.

Responsibility

In **Mathematics**, we will be practising counting through songs and rhymes. We will be learning to recognise numbers to 5 as well as comparing amounts of objects and comparing things by size or weight. We will begin to learn about simple patterns and how to copy them.

In **Expressive Art and Design**: We will be looking closely at our reflections and pictures of ourselves to create our very first self portraits. We will also be listening to songs from “Boogie Mites” and joining in with singing and actions for the songs.

In **Knowledge and Understanding the World**, we will begin learning about the seasons we will be noticing similarities and differences in the environment during Autumn. We will also be looking at families and the people we live with in addition to learning about the Harvest festival.

Welcome to Year R! We are so pleased to welcome all the children to their new classes and hope that they enjoy their first week in school. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term and our learning is outlined above for you to see. Our very first priority with the children is to make sure that they are feeling happy coming to school each day and we will be doing lots of settling in activities over the coming weeks to make sure your child feels confident and settled in Year R.

We encourage you to come and speak to any member of the team to share your concerns and joys. Please ensure an appointment is made via the school office to speak with your teacher. A member of staff will be at the classroom doors each morning to welcome the children into school. We will be encouraging the children to enter the classrooms independently of the grown-ups dropping them off so please say a happy goodbye at the class doors so the children can look forward to a happy day in school.

How you can help your child at home:

- Read on a regular basis, either school book or library book.
- Play board games/dice games that involve turn taking and counting
- Go for a walk and encourage the children to listen, look and talk about the things they see and hear.

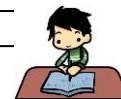
Reading

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will develop over the next few years. The more support and encouragement that you can offer your child, the more likely it is that he or she will make good progress.

At school we are using the ***Essential Letters and Sounds teaching programme*** to take your child through the early stages of learning to read, which is a step-by-step phonics reading scheme. It introduces the children to the letters and sounds (the alphabetic code) that are at the foundation of all reading and writing.

To reinforce the teaching in school, your child will bring home books to share with you that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge.

You may like to visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk for further information about phonics, helping your child to read and for free resources and eBooks. You will also be given a login for Oxford Owl which gives you access to other decodable reading books.



Outdoor learning

Thursday 15th October

Children can wear leggings/tracksuit trousers and trainers or wellies. School sweatshirts/cardigans should be worn on top.

Please bring a coat in case of poor weather.



Dates for your diary

Fri 11th Sep – Tea and Tissues 8:30

Wed 16th Sep - Physical Development Workshop
9:00 (details to follow)

Mon 28th Sep – DF Phonics Workshop 9:00-9:30

Tue 29th Sep – BB Phonics Workshop 9:00-9:30

Fri 9th Oct – Little City Visit

Thu 15th Oct – Outdoor Learning

Fri 23rd Oct – INSET DAY

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct – HALF TERM

Belongings

Please ensure your child's name is on **all** of their clothing, lunch boxes and PE kits. Children will need to bring their book bag to school each day (no rucksacks please) and a named water bottle which will be kept in school during the week and sent home on Fridays.

Please feel free to bring your child's PE kit into school, we will not be starting PE lessons until later in the term but PE bags may stay in school until then if you wish.

Phonics Lesson

You are invited to come into school to watch a phonics lesson to learn more about how we teach phonics in school:

Monday 28th September, 9.00am

Dragonflies Class

Tuesday 29th September, 9.00am

Bumblebees Class