EARLY YEARS

AUTUMN 2 TOPIC LETTER

When I Grow Up, I'd Like to Be…

Welcome back! We are looking forward to another exciting half term. Our topic will help children explore different jobs, discover how people help our community and think about how we can help others. We will also learn about seasonal celebrations, including Bonfire Night, Remembrance, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Our learning this half term

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will build independence, confidence and positive relationships. We will explore friendship, managing emotions, resolving disagreements respectfully and recognising trusted adults who can help us stay safe.

Key vocabulary: *help, share, take turns, safe, kind, thank you, cooperate, respect, community, rules, feelings, friendship, service, responsibility, inclusion, conflict resolution, remembrance*

Physical Development

Children will practise dressing themselves, putting on coats and shoes, toileting and handwashing. Dough disco, threading, tweezers and name writing will strengthen fingers and develop pencil control. PE will focus on sending and receiving, alongside running, jumping, climbing, throwing and catching.

Key vocabulary: *walk, stop, go, carry, climb, dance, travel, movement, control, balance, coordination, road safety, agility, spatial awareness, pedestrian safety, fine-motor control*

Communication and Language

Stories, songs, conversations and role play will develop listening, attention, understanding and speaking. Children will ask and answer questions about occupations and talk about how people help us.

Key vocabulary: *job, helper, doctor, nurse, teacher, firefighter, police, describe, explain, interview, question, role, emergency, occupation, profession, community, responsibility, sequence, retell*

Literacy

Reception: Daily Read Write Inc. sessions will continue with Set 1 sounds and blending simple words such as cat, top and sit. We will introduce red words including I and the. Our focus text is Funnybones, inspiring storytelling, discussion, labels and early writing. Please practise sounds little and often, record reading in the reading record, and return reading-for-pleasure books on Thursdays.

Nursery: We will develop mark-making, drawing and name-writing using a range of materials. Phase 1 phonics will support listening, sound discrimination, rhythm and rhyme.

Key vocabulary: *letter, list, card, story, sound, name, message, invitation, label, character, setting, retell, purpose, audience, caption, phoneme, grapheme, sentence*

Mathematics

Reception: We will focus on numbers 1, 2 and 3, comparing and exploring how numbers can be made. Children will represent numbers to 5, explore one more and one less, recognise circles, triangles and shapes with four sides, use positional language, and sequence events across day and night and the days of the week.

Key vocabulary: *count, number, more, less, first, next, shape, sort, compare, order, pattern, measure, sequence, ordinal, numeral, composition, positional language, timeline, repeating pattern*

Nursery: We will continue counting to 10 and beyond, matching one number to each object, exploring 2D shapes, positional language and everyday time.

Understanding the World

We will explore different occupations and how people help our community. We hope to welcome family members to talk about their jobs, so please let us know if you would like to visit. We will learn about Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night, reflect on Remembrance, explore Hanukkah and Christmas, compare Christmas in the past and present, and look at homes and places around the world.

Key vocabulary: *helper, uniform, vehicle, light, dark, past, present, community, emergency, tradition, celebration, remembrance, transport, occupation, chronology, historical source, cultural tradition, safety rule, route*

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore colour, texture, materials, music and movement. In our Structures: Boats project, they will design and make boats, investigate which materials and designs float or sink, and learn how RNLI boats help people in danger at sea. We will also make firework pictures, Christmas decorations and cards, learn songs and poems, and prepare for our Nativity. Story maps, props and puppets will support storytelling and imaginative role play.

Key vocabulary: *dress up, make, sing, dance, paint, build, role play, design, perform, rhythm, texture, join, dramatic role, prop, model, structure, collage, symbolic representation*

How you can support learning at home

Talk about jobs	What do different people do? How do they help us?
Practise independence	Encourage your child to dress themselves, put on their coat and manage their belongings.
Enjoy stories	Talk about characters and settings, and encourage your child to retell familiar stories.
Practise phonics	Reception families can revisit sounds sent home and read together regularly.

Explore maths	Count everyday objects, spot shapes and talk about more, less, first and next.
Share experiences	Upload photographs and achievements to Tapestry so we can celebrate learning at home and school.

Gentle reminders

Drop-off and pick-up: Drop-off is 8.45am prompt; pick-up is 3.15pm. If the Early Years gate is locked, please enter through the main office.

Clothing and belongings: Please provide a named change of clothes. If your child uses nappies/pull-ups, please also provide these, wipes and nappy bags. Send only a book bag and reading folder; spare clothes can be left in a small carrier or drawstring bag.

Weather and water: We go outside in all weathers, so a waterproof coat is essential. Hats and gloves may be needed. Please send a named water bottle every day.

PE and Forest School: These take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please send your child in PE kit on these days. Any changes will be shared on Tapestry.

Messages and Tapestry: Please email the school office about end-of-day changes, as Tapestry messages may not be seen immediately. Check Tapestry regularly for observations and next steps, and share home achievements too.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2 November	Whole-school PTA treat – Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at the village hall.
Thursday 5 November	Individual school photographs. Siblings may attend from 8.00am; book through the school office.
Tuesday 24 November	Babes in the Wood, 1.15–2.45pm.
Saturday 28 November	PTA Christmas Fayre, village hall, 10.00am–12.00pm. Volunteers are very welcome.
Tuesday 8 December	Nativity: dress rehearsal at 10.00am (particularly suitable for toddlers and babies); afternoon performance at 1.30pm.
Thursday 10 December	Christmas lunch and party day. Children may wear party or Christmas clothes.
Tuesday 15 December	Babes in the Wood Christmas special, 1.15–2.45pm.
Friday 18 December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St Bartholomew's Church, 1.30pm. School closes for the Christmas holidays.

Thank you for your continued support!

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to share your job with the children, please speak to me. We're looking forward to a half term full of curiosity, creativity and learning!