

Early Years Topic Letter

Autumn 2

Welcome back and I hope you have had a fantastic holiday break!

Gentle reminders:

Willowburn will continue on a Monday and the children will continue with PE sessions and therefore will need to continue to come to school in their PE kit, hoody and sweatpants on this day.

Please remember a WATERPROOF COAT at all times, we go out in all weathers so a hat, scarf and gloves will be needed as the weather begins to get colder!

Please make sure every item of clothing is clearly marked with your child's name. There have been lots of items of uniform and PE go missing this half term or end up going home with someone else. I am still picking up cardigans, jumpers and hoodies on a daily basis with no name in... making it impossible to reunite them!

Please remember to log onto your child's tapestry account regularly, this will help you to see what your child's next steps are and will help you to support your child's learning. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don't forget to upload achievements and experiences at home!

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 13th November—Falconry visit to Early Years

Wednesday 12th December - Christmas lunch day - children can wear their favourite outfit.

Friday 14th December - Early Years and Class One Christmas Production - 10am.

Thursday 20th December - Christingle and Carol service in Church - 1:30pm

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

PSED is constantly promoted all day every day in Early Years for example, sharing, taking turns, understanding their own emotions, listening to their friends and following classroom rules are reinforced on an hourly basis in Early Years. This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Developing our friendships and playing with a wider range of children. Initiating play and asking other children to join in with their games.

Using how and why questions and becoming more confident to question things.

Accepting delay and being able to share our own thoughts and feelings.

We will use our focus text 'Owl Babies' to think closely about different feelings including sad, happy, cross and being scared or worried.



Communication and Language

This half term we will be focusing on:

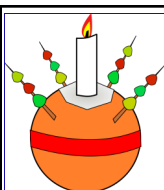
Having two channelled attention, being able to listen and 'do' at the same time.

Singing and learning lots of familiar and new nursery rhymes.

Learning the 'Owl Babies' story off by heart.

Developing our vocabulary when talking about stories and characters.

Using more complex sentences to link our ideas and thoughts.



RE This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions to understand Christianity and will focus on 'Communities'.

Reception and Nursery will also talk about special times, take part in special worships, take part in the Christingle and celebrate Christmas. We will also learn about and celebrate Diwali.

Physical Development

This half term we will continue with our dough disco sessions each morning to help to develop our core strength and balance along with our fine motor skills.

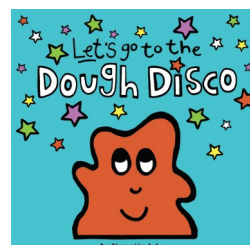
We will continue to promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running and squatting outdoors and at forest school.

We will be taking part in lots of fine motor activities which will help to develop the strength in our fingers, and support us to hold a pencil effectively. These will include things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking and using tweezers.

Reception will take part in indoor athletics sessions at Willowburn this half term.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation in our name and other words.

We will be placing a huge emphasis on independence this half term. Please help us by allowing your child to dress themselves, put on their own shoes and begin to become more independent at home (Shoes without laces are much easier for little hands!)



Owl Babies

Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will continue to focus on learning our RWInc set 1 sounds through short and snappy 'speed sounds' sessions each morning, designed to teach the children to recognise and pronounce the pure sounds, before reading them in simple CVC words such as 'cat, top, sit'. For those children who are confidently doing this, we will be moving on to introduce set 2 sounds and be having a go at writing simple captions. We will also be introducing new red words this half term, including 'the, I, my, go, to, said, no'. It is important as the children pick up the Read, Write, Inc sounds that they practise forming these accurately, starting in the correct place.

We will also continue to develop our recognition of rhyming and alliteration through fun games, songs and rhymes. It is vital that the children develop their sound discrimination skills before they can become fluent readers.

We will be developing our 'Talk 4 Writing' skills this half term by linking lots of what we do to our focus text 'Owl Babies'. We will be learning to retell this story by creating story maps, learning actions and taking part in lots of fun activities relating to the text.

We will share non-fiction books about Owls and learn about how information can be retrieved from books and computers. We will also have an Owl visitor. We will work together to write our own Owl fact file.

We will be continuing to write for a purpose - writing letters to Santa, labelling models and writing Christmas lists!

Please continue to support your child by reading with them daily and looking at their RWinc sounds and words in their folders.



Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will be continuing to focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus text of 'Owl Babies' as we take part in many activities linked to the story and we will retell the story and put actions to it. We will share non-fiction texts about Owls and enjoy a visit from an owl.

We will be working on having a go at writing our names and developing our mark making skills.

This half term we will be continuing to place our emphasis on creating confident mark makers, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.



Reception Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision but as the children move into Reception they also take part in short directed Maths activities. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.

This term, in Maths the children will focus on:

Use the language of more and fewer to compare groups of objects, finding 1 more than a given number to 5, find 1 more and 1 less from a group of 5 objects, find the total of two groups of objects by adding them together, begin to use the vocabulary involved in addition and subtraction.

Begin to use everyday language related to money.



Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Construct with a purpose in mind and explore different techniques used to attach things together.

Explore musical instruments, making noise like various animals and independently making sounds.

Explore open ended resources and use construction materials to build and make things (including natural resources at forest school).

Explore light and dark colours and how to alter and change these.

Developing and practising songs and acting for our Christmas play.

Make a variety of artwork linked to our topic, including collage pictures, paintings and clay sculptures.

Understanding the World

This term we will be:

Exploring seasonal changes and the environment in Autumn/Winter - leaves falling, freezing and melting.

Learning about nocturnal animals including Owls.

Learning about an Owls life cycle.

Learning about why and how animals hibernate.

Meeting some real owls and learning about how there are different species.

Exploring day and night and light and dark.

Learning about and celebrating Diwali and Christmas. Comparing these celebrations to our own traditions and lives.

Using cameras to take photos and videos.



Nursery Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, at snack time and while the children play. Before the day has even started we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using numicon. Nursery children develop a concrete understanding of number and shape through carefully questions and skilled interactions through their play. This half term, their will be particular focus on the following:

Recalling, in order, numbers beyond 10.



Counting objects accurately by touching each object as they say the number name (up to 5 objects).



Playing with and exploring numicon.

SRE As part of our statutory SRE curriculum this half term we will be thinking about hygiene.