

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, a huge thank you from us for all of your support this half term, from getting here on time, to bringing book bags and attending the workshop...all of the little things you do are appreciated.

We wish you a wonderful half term, relax and enjoy the time.

Here are some dates for Autumn 2 term...

Friday 6 th November	Diwali party with Nursery
Monday 9 th November	Wear odd socks day
Tuesday 8 th December	Church visit
Thursday 10 th December	Phonics parent workshop (blending)
Friday 18 th December	Christmas party, last day of term

We will give you more info about all events nearer the time.

From Mrs Magee, Mrs Khan and the Reception team

Let's Celebrate



Communication and Language:

Talking focus- Talking about things beyond our own experience

This half term adults will support children to acquire, learn and apply new vocabulary. This may be linked to seasonal changes, celebrations and will always follow the interests of the children. Awe, wonder and chances for investigation will inspire children to be curious, asking questions to find out more and adults will use questioning to check they understand what has been said to them. We will continue to use story books as a springboard for conversation and new learning. Children will engage in story times, listening to and talking about stories to build familiarity and understanding.

Personal, social and Emotional:

School value- Being open-minded

Imagination, Viewpoints and Perspectives, celebrations & Festivals

Celebration- Diwali, Christmas

This half term we will continue to build on our personal development from Autumn 1 and most children will be expected to follow the rules and routines of Reception. Children should be accessing the resources in learning environments independently but will be encouraged to ask for help if they cannot solve the problem themselves. Adults will continue to observe for and model the characteristics of effective learning. Key events will inspire us to think about the cultures, beliefs and experiences of others; bonfire night, Diwali, anti-bullying week and Christmas will provide plenty of opportunities to do this. Children will be encouraged to think about, talk about and try to understand the feelings of others.

Physical Development:

Children will continue to be given many opportunities to develop their gross motor skills and take controlled risks in the outdoor area. We will continue to challenge their balancing, coordination and control skills. Our focus this half term will be our fine motor and hand strength...getting our bodies ready to become writers. Children will be supported to use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. The suggested tools are: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks, spoons, wands and brushes.

The second half of Autumn term brings with it changes in weather, and lots of reasons to explore and celebrate. Reception children will begin the half term learning about the festival of Diwali, moving on to look at cultural similarities and differences, road safety, Winter and ending the half term learning about the Nativity and Christmas. We will use our celebrations this term as a springboard for other learning, like talking about different cultures and beliefs, purposeful writing of cards and invitations, and observing and discussing seasonal changes.



Key events and experiences

- Bonfire/Diwali party with Nursery
- Road safety AND Church visit
- Winter
- Christmas celebrations

Parental engagement

- Story sharing session
- Phonics workshop

Expressive Art and Design:

This half term adults will continue to support children to explore using different materials to express their ideas and feelings. Collaborative creations shall be presented to children and they will share ideas, resources and skills with other children. There will be many opportunities to explore art including links to Autumn, printing, exploring colour, colour mixing, exploring texture, 3D Art, Diwali, Winter / ice, celebration and music. Adults will focus on processes not outcomes, encouraging children to talk about how they are creating. We will use powerful music to explore sounds, and children will be asked to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses. Finally, linked to fine motor, children will use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors, making strokes with a paint brush.

- To use simple tools to effect changes to materials

Literacy:

As we move through Autumn term and become more confident with our phonics, children will be encouraged to read individual letters by saying the sounds for them and blend known sounds into words. Adults will support children to give meaning to the marks they make as they draw, write and paint. Teachers will write with children in purposeful ways and we will learn how to spell words by identifying the initial and final sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s. Opportunities for writing will be put into continuous provision and these will include writing lists, labels, letters, invitations and words using initial, final and medial sounds. Reception children will self-register daily, recognising their own names, they will be supported this half term to write their name independently with correct letter formation.

Maths:

As we move through the 'Maths No Problem' curriculum children will develop their understanding of numbers. Adults will work to support a thorough application of number, size and shape through play-based learning. Children will be encouraged to use number names and symbols when comparing numbers, showing interest in large numbers. Estimate numbers of things, showing an understanding of relative size, and then working with adults to test their estimate. Opportunities to count beyond ten will be provided.

Understanding the World:

This half term children will be supported to talk about what they see, hear and feel, indoors and outdoors. They will observe and talk about weather changes, linking this to the seasonal features of Autumn and Winter.

The celebrations topic lends itself to further understanding that some places are special to members of their community, and the recognition that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. We will explore the local area using maps within our play, including a visit to our local church at Christmas time.

Adults will continue to establish our Yorkmead rules, encouraging children to grow in independence and understand when it is time to stop, tidy up and help others. I understand and follow the school rules.