CELEBRATIONS!

NURSERY – AUTUMN 2026

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



Literacy

In our daily Literacy sessions we will be exploring books featuring poetry and rhyme. We will be encouraged to join in with repeated phrases in stories, nursery rhymes and songs. We will be encouraged to use marks to record and share ideas, and will look for examples of print in our environment (on things like signs and labels). In our phonics sessions, we will continue to explore different sounds, and start to identify the different sounds within words.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be discussing what it means to be kind and generous to others, thinking about the reasons why we give presents and cards at Christmas. We will also talk about the way that we feel when other people are kind to us, linked to this term's *Learning Superhero*, Eddy Empathy.

Communication and Language

Leading up to our trip to the theatre on 11th November we will be talking about what to expect and what we're excited about - and then after we have been we will be describing the show in detail and recounting our day out. Throughout the term, we will be talking about what, when and how we celebrate, thinking in particular about festivals that happen at this time of year (like Diwali, Christmas and Hannukah). We will continue to build up our knowledge of nursery rhymes, and will be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week, from 9th - 13th November, which features a *Rhyme-A-Day* challenge.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be introduced to printing, creating repeating patterns. In music, we will be singing lots of songs linked to festivals and celebrations, and will start to add instruments as well. Linked to Bonfire Night, we will be creating firework arts and crafts, and later in the term we will be doing lots of Christmas-themed projects.

Physical Development

We will be exploring different ways of moving by crawling, bouncing, hopping, skipping, rolling and running - and we will then try adding music and seeing how we can link our movements to the sounds we hear. Alongside this, we will develop our ball skills, rolling, bouncing, throwing and catching balls of a variety of sizes. Throughout the term, we will also be encouraged to become more independent when we put on coats and shoes.

Mathematics

We will be focussing on the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, matching quantities to numerals and linking these numbers to the sides of circles, triangles and squares. We will also be on the look out for these numbers (and groups of these numbers of objects) in the world around us. In our daily maths lessons, we will also be learning to measure and compare weight, length and height. This will give us lots of opportunities to practise using mathematical language, such as *more*, *less*, *heavier*, *lighter*, *longer* and *shorter*. Throughout the term we will continue to sing lots of our favourite number and counting songs, so don't forget to ask us to share these with you at home!

Understanding the world

There are lots of celebrations and special days coming up over the next few weeks, and we will be learning about as many of them as we can! In particular, we will explore Diwali, Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will think about the reasons why these events are special to us, the stories and events behind them and the way that we celebrate them.

We will also be investigating the changing seasons, looking at the way our environment changes as autumn turns to winter. We will also think about differences in the weather, the clothes we wear and the way that different animals get ready for the colder weather.

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Ideas for supporting learning at home:



Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what they've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided lots of guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Talk about things you'll be celebrating this term in your family, the traditions you have and the reasons these are important to you.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings - can they name the emotion? What does it 'feel like' inside? What has made them feel that way?

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- When you talk to your child about all the things they have done at school that day, encourage them to describe what they saw and put events in time order.
- Sing nursery rhymes together - can your child tell you about the ones they have learnt at school?

Expressive Arts and Design

- We'd love you to join us in school for our Christmas Craft morning, from 9.00 - 10.00 on Thursday 10th December.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you - and maybe have a go at making something similar together at home.

Physical Development

Encourage your child to put clothes on with growing independence and brush their teeth twice a day. Talk about the things that you eat and drink, thinking about healthy choices (and the reasons why it's OK to eat a few unhealthy things from time to time).

Build an obstacle course in the house or garden together, running (carefully) around benches or chairs, crawling under blankets and clambering through cardboard boxes.

Mathematics

- Keep practising counting, whenever and wherever possible - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Build models from cardboard boxes or wooden bricks, using words like *long* or *tall* to describe what you make together.
- Sing counting rhymes like *Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer* or *1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive* together.

Understanding the world

- When you're out and about, look for signs of autumn and winter, and talk about how the environment changes. Collect conkers or acorns, exploring what these feel like (and practicing counting them too).
- Look for (and talk about) other changes linked to the colder weather - what different clothes do we wear? Why does the car ice-up? What different things do we do?
- We'll be exploring Diwali and Christmas over the next few weeks, so talk about the ways in which your family celebrates at this time of year. What events are special to you? What special traditions does your family have?