MY SPECIAL PEOPLE

RECEPTION – AUTUMN 2026

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



Literacy

Building phonics knowledge will continue to be a key part of our day, working in our Read Write Inc groups to develop our ability to hear the sounds in words and begin to match these to letters. In our Literacy sessions, meanwhile, we will be creating our own 'Special People' books, full of information about the people who are important to us. We will also be reading and exploring the stories *Me and My Sister*, *Jojo and Gran Gran*, *Oi Cat* and *There's A Bear On My Chair*.

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 support good causes and give presents 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 12th 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 half-term we will be doing lots of work around rhyme, spotting words that rhyme, singing rhyming songs and reading stories that are written in verse. We will also continue to learn our Makaton *Sign of the Week*. Finally, later in the term we will be writing and posting letters to Santa and talking about all the things we enjoy about Christmas!

Expressive Arts and Design

Our *Artist of the half-term* is Kandinsky, and we will be exploring and imitating his abstract pictures. To help us do this, we will learn how to mix and create new colours and textures. Linked to Bonfire Night, we will also be creating firework arts and crafts, and later in the term we will be doing lots of Christmas-themed projects.

Physical Development

In our PE sessions with Mr Butler, we will continue to develop our spatial awareness, finding space, moving towards and away from each other, and travelling and stopping with control. In class, we will have lots of opportunities to develop our mark making skills, working out if we prefer holding writing tools in our right or left hand. We will also develop our fine motor skills through cutting, chopping and painting.

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring patterns and comparison. We will be counting out groups of objects and representing numbers in lots of different ways, and then using words like 'more', 'less' and 'the same' to compare how many there are in each group. We will wrap presents to help us to compare the size of objects, using words like 'bigger' and 'smaller', and will put things in order in Santa's Workshop. Throughout the term we will also continue to practice our counting skills, building our understanding of cardinality (saying one number name for each thing we're counting) and knowing that the last number we say is the total in the group.

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.
- Talk about times when characters in stories feel worried and link this to real-world experiences, helping your child to recognise that everyone feels this way from time to time.

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

- Support your child in using mark making to share their ideas. These might not be recognisable letter shapes yet - any marks that have meaning to them count.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own 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 - especially at Christmas!)

Mathematics

- Keep practisng 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!
- Practise writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practise saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practising number names, too.

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 practising 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?