Uffington Church of England Primary School



Wrens Class Newsletter – Autumn 2

Welcome



As we move into our second half of the autumn term, there's a real sense of excitement in the air! The weeks ahead are always such a special time in Reception, filled with curiosity, creativity and plenty of festive fun as we begin to prepare for Christmas.



The children have already made such wonderful progress since September, and we're looking forward to building on their growing confidence and independence as we enjoy this magical term together. The overall topic for this term is 'People who help us'.

Phonics

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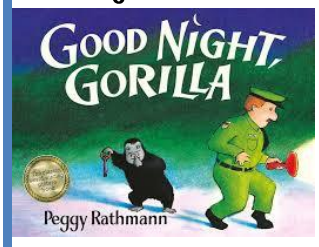
This term we will continue teaching phonics using the Little Wandle scheme.

They will learn Phase 2 letter sounds /ll/ /ff/ /ss/ /j/ /v/ /w/ /x/ /y/ /z/ /zz/ /qu/ /ch/ /sh/ /th/ /ng/ /nk/ Phase 2 words with -s /s/ added at the end (hats, sits), Phase 2 Words ending in s /z/ (his) and with s /z/ added at the end (bags)

They will also learn to read Phase 2 tricky words –is, I, the, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, he of

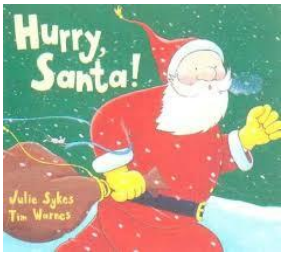
Link to website - https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

Literacy



This term we will be focusing on these books - Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann and Hurry Santa! By Julia Sykes

We will also share many other fiction and non-fiction books to support learning, understanding and comprehension.



We will continue our handwriting programme Kinetic letters and we will carry on building the strength, posture and movements that will help children become confident writers. We will begin to introduce the letter families and how to form letters correctly by grouping them according to their shapes and movements.

Christmas activities will also be involved in our literacy work including, writing Christmas words, Christmas cards etc...

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Maths



In maths this term, we will continue to build the children's understanding of numbers through lots of practical and hands on experiences.

We'll be focussing on recognising and using numbers to 10, comparing amounts, and exploring the ideas 'more' and 'fewer'. The children will also learn to order and compare objects by length, height, name and describe 2D shape and explore addition and subtraction through stories, songs and play.

Communication and language



We will teach the children how to engage in story times, joining in with repeated phrases and act to understand how and why questions, respond to instructions with more than one step, answer questions in front of whole class, use new vocabulary throughout the day.

Personal, social and emotional development



We will develop self-regulation and encourage the children to talk about how they are feeling, consider the feelings of others, adapt behaviour to a range of situations.

We will help the children to develop managing themselves and learn class rules and understand the need to have rules, put P.E kit on independently and have the confidence to try new activities.

The children will build relationships and play with children who are playing with the same activity, develop friendships and continue to build positive relationships with all staff.

In Personal, Social and Emotional development we use the IDecision programme. This introduces children to important skills such as making choices, understanding feelings, building friendships and staying safe. Lessons are interactive, often using short videos and discussions to help children think about situations and practise making positive decisions. As part of the programme the children are introduced to friendly colourful drop characters. They help the children understand these ideas in a fun and memorable way. This term we will cover – Blue explores road safety, Blue gets lost, Blues best friend, Green gets glasses, Green stays in hospital, Greens greens and Orange brushes her teeth. We use can also use the resources in the moment to support learning about specific situations that we may need to cover.

Physical development



In PE this term, the children will continue to develop their movement skills through a range of fun activities. We will be focusing on balance, coordination and control as the children learn to move in different ways, work with partners and use some simple equipment. Through our ball skills sessions, the children will practise rolling, throwing, catching and kicking with increasing accuracy.

We will also be encouraging teamwork, listening and following instructions as part of every lesson.

In fine motor we will be helping the children to strengthen their hand and finger muscles. They will develop their control when using different mark making tools, using a dominant hand and practising the correct pencil grip. They will continue working on early cutting skills and using tweezers and other small tools to

move and sort objects. We will develop fine motor control through structured activities including fiddly fingers, dough disco and kinetic letters handwriting sessions.

Understanding the world



In History we will have opportunities for the children to reflect on memories and experiences from their own past and comment on images of familiar situations in the past. They will describe changes over time, begin to recognise the order events happen, identify toys from the past and compare pictures from the past and present.

We will continue to explore seasonal change, looking closely at weather, trees and how our environment changes through autumn and into winter.

In computing we will operate simple equipment, use the iPad to take pictures and explore how to draw pictures on the interactive board and change the colours.

In RE we will explore 'Which people stories and events are special to me?' We will answer questions and explore themes such as Christmas – Jesus a special baby, Explore why pupils get excited when they think about Christmas, Use advent calendar and explain that advent is special for Christians in preparation for the birth of Jesus, Why Christmas is special to Christians? Why and how do Christians celebrate Christmas? Why Christmas is special for many people and how it may be celebrated in school?

Hinduism – Why is Diwali special for Hindus? Special people in the Diwali story, How can we celebrate Diwali in school?



We will also have another **'WELLY DAY'** to look forward to on **Thursday 19th November.**

Expressive Arts and Design



As we move towards Christmas we will be enjoying some seasonal craft including Christmas art day on Thursday 26th November.

We will be creating a salt dough decoration where the children will manipulate salt dough and use a range of tools to create a Christmas decoration.

In music we will be exploring celebration music from around the world. We will listen to and make music linked to festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, learning simple rhythms and songs using instruments to keep a steady beat.

The children will enjoy learning and performing Nativity songs and Christmas carols.



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Helping your child learn at home



At this early stage, the most important way that you can support your child is by helping them to keep a good routine at home and time to talk about their day if they want to.

We also encourage you to login regularly to Tapestry, where you can upload photos and information about your child's interests and experiences outside of school. This helps us to build a full picture of their learning journey.

We will continue to send home a maths information book, Letters and sounds book and Letters and sounds pack. These are not for the children to write in, but are designed to help you understand how we teach these areas and give ideas for supporting learning at home. You could support your child in learning those letters and tricky words.

The home learning books will be collected in each Wednesday and returned on Friday.



Your child will continue to have two books to share at home. One book that they have chosen from the classroom that can be read to them. We call these **'Reading for pleasure books'.**

The other book will be their reading book that they have read up to three times at school focussing on – Decoding, Prosody and Comprehension. By the time the children bring these books back they should know them very well. Please keep these books in their book bag every day and tick, comment or sign when they have been shared at home.

These books will mainly be changed each Friday

Rewards



The children will receive 'House Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude.

They will also earn Gold Stars for being kind and courteous.

In Foundation Stage we also earn 'gems' towards a whole class reward!

Class information

Class Teacher: Miss Waters / Mrs Salisbury each Friday

Please discourage your children from bringing their own toys to school unless we have asked for them.

In order to keep books and letters in good condition we ask that all children bring a bag to school every day so that we can update their books and to send home any letters or resources.

PE bags and trainers will be required at school all week.

Please remember to name your child's school clothes.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

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Dates for the diary!



Autumn 2



Monday 2nd November – school reopens for pupils

Friday 6th November - Whole school worship in Church – 2.00-3.00pm

Monday 9th November – Year 5/6 Welly Day

Monday 9th November – EYFS & KS1 Great Fire of London Experience Day - at School

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Service led by Y5/6 in Church – 10.45-11.30am

Thursday 12th November – Open Afternoon / Evening for Reception Admissions for Sept 2027 - 1.30-3.00pm & 5.00-6.30pm

Friday 13th November – Children in Need (spotty / stripey accessories)

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day (to start Anti Bullying Week)

Thursday 19th November – EYFS & Year 3/4 Welly Day

Friday 20th November – Mufti Day (donations for the Christmas Fayre tombola)

Monday 23rd November – EYFS & KS1 visiting Tallington Christmas Tree Farm

Friday 27th November – Year 1/2 Welly Day

Friday 27th November – Travelling Nativity starts its journey!

Saturday 28th November – PTA Christmas Fayre

Friday 4th December – Open Afternoon (please help take the stage to Church) – 2.30-3.15pm

Sunday 6th December – Stage up in Church (any help appreciated) – 3.00pm

Tuesday 8th December – Nativity in Church (pre-school children welcome) – 2.00pm

Wednesday 9th December – Nativity in Church (no pre-school children please) – 2.00pm

Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner / Winter Wonderland Sponsored Fun-Run

Friday 11th December – Christingle Service in Church – 2.00pm

Sunday 13th December – Nine Lessons & Carols Service in Church – 6.00-7.00pm

Tuesday 15th December – KS2 Christmas Performance – 2.30pm on the School Playground

Wednesday 16th December – Termly Information Report to Parents



Thursday 17th December – Pantomime trip to the Cresset (Peter Pan)

Friday 18th December – Whole school worship in Church – Carols around the tree - 2.00-3.00pm

Friday 18th December – Travelling Nativity returns to Church



Friday 18th December – school closes for Christmas