



Early Years Newsletter

Spring 1st Half Term 2026

Area of Development	This half term our topic is ' <u>Pirates and Ships</u> '
Communication, Language, Reading and Writing	<p>The children in Early Years will be taking part in lots of speaking and listening, reading, and writing activities associated with the following pirate books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winnie & the pirates• The night pirates & the pirate next door• Pirates love underpants• Billy and the pirates• On a pirate ship• 10 little pirates• Pirate Pete <p>We will continue with daily phonic activities and concentrate on speaking and listening skills through a variety of games and activities. The children will take part in lots of mark making activities associated with our topic. If your child does any writing at home, please take a photo, and put it on Tapestry. We'd love to see it.</p>
Mathematics	<p>The children will take part in lots of number activities involving counting objects carefully, number recognition, ordering numbers, problem solving and shape and space activities. Children will also use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity and positions. We will continue consolidating the children's number recognition with Ten Town on the interactive whiteboard. The activities will be linked to our stories. For example, counting pirate treasure, sorting jewels according to size and shape, and recognising numbers on spaceships.</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>We continuously encourage the children to develop independence and key skills to help them throughout the rest of their school journey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forming friendships with children• Sharing toys• Manners (saying please and thank you)• Managing feelings and behaviour• Listening to children and adults• Developing confidence when talking in front of others• Self-confidence and self-awareness• Regular hand washing• Developing resilience• Using a knife and fork
Understanding the World	<p>During our topics, the children will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family customs and routines• Learning about pirates and ships• Testing Materials• Change, patterns, similarities and why things happen and how things work.• Know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.• Make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes.• Completing ICT programmes• Programming floor robots• Using cameras and iPads• Children understanding that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools.• Change, patterns, similarities and why things happen and how things work.
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>The children will continue to sing songs and have the opportunity to compose pieces of music with instruments related to our topics, be imaginative, play cooperatively to develop and act out narratives. Paints, pastels, crayons, and other mark making materials and art equipment will be available every day for the children to use.</p>
Physical Development	<p>The children will use the following pieces of equipment to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play dough and other malleable materials• Dough disco sessions• Yoga and dance sessions

- Baking
- Scissors and glue
- Mark making materials
- Play various playground games.
- Climbing Frame and tunnels.
- Scooters and bikes
- Obstacle courses
- Bats and balls
- Hoops and beanbags
- Wooden and plastic blocks

They will also learn about self-care:

- Washing their hands regularly and how germs are spread
- Learn to use tissues- catch it, kill it, bin it
- Using the toilet with increasing independence
- Getting dressed and undressed independently
- Putting on and taking off our coat
- Using a knife and fork when eating

Outdoor Play

We would like to remind parents/carers to ensure children bring appropriate clothing to school for outdoor play. Coats, hats, and gloves should all have names in them. It is a good idea to send a spare set of clothes in for your child in case they get wet or dirty. We do have some spare clothes, but our supply is extremely low! If you have any old clothes which your child has grown out of, we would be very grateful for trousers, tops, wellies, pants, or socks. Thank you!

Home Learning & Tapestry

All home learning will be sent out via email on a Friday. Please submit all home learning via the Tapestry app by the following Thursday at the very latest. If you have trouble accessing Tapestry, please speak to a member of staff. It's important that all parents have access to this wonderful app.

Water bottles

Please provide a bottle with plain tap water for your child to access whenever needed throughout their nursery session. .

School uniform

Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform which is clearly labelled with your child's name. Children must wear a tie, a shirt with pointed collars, a school jumper or cardigan with the logo on, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore and plain black school shoes.

Toys, scooters & bikes

Toys and teddies must not be brought into school. Please can we also remind you that in the interests of safety, if your child comes to school on a bicycle, scooter, or any other child's vehicle they must dismount the item when they arrive at the gate and lock it in the cycle store (located on the main school playground). Please be aware that the main school gates will be locked and won't re-open until 3:25pm. Alternatively, scooters and bikes can be handed to the parent/carer to take home for safe keeping. Unfortunately, we are unable to store scooters and bikes in our nursery playground for safety reasons. Thank you.

Early Years Fund

Thank you for your weekly 50p donations. We are continuing to ask Early Years parents for a contribution of 50p per week. There is an envelope on the Nursery classroom door and a class list. Please tick your child's name off when you have donated the 50p.

Bags of Support

We have resource bags available in Early Years to help support families at home. These are for: bereavement, divorce/separation, deployment, potty training, new baby, sleep routines, healthy eating, fine motor skills development, staying in hospital and behaviour. Please speak to a member of staff if you would like more information.

Calendar dates for the Spring Term

SPRING 1

Monday 5 th	January School opens to pupils
Wednesday 7th January	Reception Open Event for 2026 Intake
Tuesday 3rd February	N – Year 6 Pastoral Parent Consultation Evening 1
Thursday 5th February	N – Year 6 Pastoral Parent Consultation Evening 2
Thursday 12th February	Whole School Themed Dinner and Fundraising

Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 20th February	3:30pm School closes for Half Term
<u>SPRING 2</u>	
Monday 2nd March	School opens to pupils
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
w/c 9th March	British Science Week
Friday 20th March	Charity Day – Red Nose Day & Fundraising
Monday 30th March	Easter Competition and Collection
Thursday 2nd April	3:30pm School closes for Easter Holiday

Should you have any questions or concerns about the details above, or any other matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Here's hoping for an exciting and productive term!

Early Years Team