



**Pre-school & Reception: Autumn 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year! It has been lovely welcoming our Pre-school and Reception children and helping them settle into our class routines. We have lots of exciting learning planned for our first half term together.

**Our Learning**: Starting School, Me & My Family, Autumn

Our big question this half term is "What makes me, me and where do I belong?"

We will be learning about ourselves, our feelings, our families and our school, developing confidence, independence and positive relationships. As autumn approaches, we will use our outdoor environment and Welly Walks to notice and compare seasonal changes.

Our core stories include: The Colour Monster Goes to School, The Colour Monster, The Dot, The Family Book, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Leaf Man. Stories, rhymes and conversations will help us develop children's communication, vocabulary and love of books.

In maths, children will explore counting and number, matching, sorting, comparing, pattern and measure through focused teaching and play.

In mark making and early writing, pre-school children will develop hand strength, pencil control and confidence through drawing, dough, cutting and mark making. Reception children will practise correct formation of the letters they have been taught and gradually begin to use their phonics to write simple words.

**Family Photos**

As part of our learning about families and belonging, we would love a family photograph from every child to display in our Home Corner. Please send a photograph into school or upload one to Tapestry for us to print.

**Welly Walks**

Wednesday 16th September, Wednesday 30th September, Wednesday 14th October

Our Welly Walks help children explore our local environment and notice how it changes through autumn.

We can only go ahead if we have enough adult helpers. Parents, grandparents and other family members are very welcome to join us, so please let us know if you can help.

Please ensure every child has a named pair of wellington boots in school for our walks and garden area.

**PE – Thursdays**

PE is on Thursdays and children can come to school wearing their PE kit for the day. Please make sure all uniform, PE kit, coats, shoes and belongings are clearly named.

**Snack**

School provides fruit each day. Please also send a small back-up snack in case the fruit provided is something your child will not eat, as we do not have alternative snacks available.

**Reception Phonics & Reading**

Reception children will learn to read through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.

Children will initially bring home picture books to develop storytelling, vocabulary and confidence with books. Once they can confidently recognise, segment and blend the first set of sounds, they will begin to bring home phonics books containing words.

We encourage children to read their phonics book three times at home to develop accuracy, fluency and confidence. Parent guidance can be found on the front and back pages.

Children will also bring home a sharing book for an adult or family member to read with or to them. This is a book to enjoy together – your child is not expected to read it independently.

**Reception Home learning**

Reception home learning will be sent home on Thursday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

**Family Session & Phonics Meeting**

Wednesday 21st October

1:30pm – Reception Little Wandle Phonics Meeting
Find out how we teach phonics and reading and how you can support your child at home.

2:00–3:00pm – Pre-school & Reception Family Session
Join us for some fun phonics and mark-making activities.

**How You Can Help at Home**

Simple everyday experiences make a huge difference. You can help by:

- Sharing stories, songs and nursery rhymes.
- Talking about feelings, family and experiences.
- Encouraging independence with coats, shoes, toileting, handwashing and belongings.
- Providing plenty of outdoor and active play – running, climbing, jumping and balancing.
- Encouraging drawing, colouring, cutting, playdough and mark making.
- Counting everyday objects and noticing numbers and patterns around you.
- Looking for signs of autumn and talking about what is changing.
- Reception children can practise the sounds and letter formations they have been taught.

Talking, playing, exploring, being active, developing independence and enjoying books together are some of the best ways to support your child's learning.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a happy and exciting half term together!

**Mrs Smith and the EYFS Team**