



## EYFS Class Newsletter - October Edition

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome to another exciting term in the Early Years Foundation Stage! As we move through this half-term, the children will be diving into the theme of "**Why do we celebrate?**" through engaging activities, stories, and hands-on experiences. We also have lots of exciting events planned, including our Nativity play and Christingle service. Read on to learn more about what your child will be learning and how you can support them at home!

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### What We've Been Learning

#### English: Verbs and Writing Skills

This term, we continue to explore **verbs** by identifying them in stories and learning how to use them in simple sentences. The children will practice:

- Identifying verbs within stories like *We're going on a bear hunt* and *The Best Diwali Ever*.
- Adding verbs to nouns to create sentences, e.g., "The mouse runs" or "The scarecrow dances."
- Using repeated refrains in stories to build fluency and confidence.

We'll also be working on writing invitations, such as birthday or celebration invites, using shared writing techniques.

**How you can help:** At home, talk about verbs with your child. For example, ask them, "What action is happening in this picture?" or play a game where they act out or name verbs like jumping, running, or clapping.

#### Phonics and Early Writing

We're progressing through **Set 1 Sounds** in Read Write Inc., focusing on saying the sounds for each letter and learning how to use **Fred Fingers** to spell simple CVC words (e.g., cat, dog, hat). We are also practicing forming lower-case letters using non-lined books.

**How you can help:** Encourage your child to listen to the sounds in words and use their fingers to spell out short words. Practise letter formation with them using fun tools like chalk or playdough.



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### Maths

This term's focus in Maths includes:

- **Working within numbers to 6:** Developing a strong understanding of numbers up to 6, including finding **1 more** and **1 less**.
- **Addition and subtraction within 6:** Using practical methods like part-part-whole models and number lines to solve problems.
- **Measure and shape sorting:** Exploring size, length, and weight and learning to sort and group objects by different properties.
- **Exploring 3D shapes:** Identifying and describing the properties of shapes like spheres, cubes, and cylinders.

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### How you can help:

- Encourage your child to look for **3D shapes** in their environment, such as balls (spheres) or boxes (cubes), and discuss their properties.
- Practise **finding 1 more and 1 less** with small everyday objects like toys or snacks.
- Incorporate sorting activities into daily routines, such as grouping toys by size or shape, or comparing the weight of objects during play.

### Why Do We Celebrate?

Through the topic of celebrations, the children will explore:

- **Week 1: What is a celebration?**
- **Week 2&3: Birthdays** (*The Birthday Invitation*).
- **Week 4: Diwali** (*The Best Diwali Ever*).
- **Week 5: Weddings and Christenings** (*The Scarecrow's Wedding*).
- **Week 6: Seasonal Change: Autumn to Winter** (*One Snowy Night*).
- **Week 7: Christmas and Nativity** (*The Jolly Christmas Postman*).

The children will explore similarities and differences between different cultural and religious celebrations. They'll use nonfiction books like *The Big Book of Festivals* to broaden their understanding of traditions worldwide.

**How you can help:** Share stories or photos from celebrations you have attended or observed with your family.

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### Physical Development

#### Gross Motor

- Developing spatial awareness and safely navigating obstacles.
- Changing direction while running or moving.

#### Fine Motor

- Scissor skills and cutting shapes for crafts.
- Practicing mark-making and letter formation.

**How you can help:** Encourage activities that involve fine motor skills, such as cutting paper (with safety scissors), threading beads, or drawing.

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### People, Communities, and Places

We will learn about:

- The similarities and differences between religious and cultural communities.
- Using maps and discussing locational language (e.g., near, far).
- Observing how Autumn transitions to Winter in our local environment.

**Key Vocabulary:** Compass directions (North, South, East, West), physical features (valley, coast), human features (city, village).

**How you can help:** Go for a walk with your child and discuss the changing seasons. Use simple maps or a globe to talk about where you live and how it connects to other places in the UK and the world.

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### Upcoming Events

- **Nativity Play:**
    - Tuesday, 10th December at 2:00 PM
    - Wednesday, 11th December at 6:00 PM
  - **Winter Walk** Date to be confirmed
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### Important Reminders

- **PE Days:** PE is on Thursdays. Please ensure your child wears comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear.
  - **Water Bottles:** Send a labelled water bottle daily.
  - **Labelled Clothing:** Ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled.
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### How You Can Help at Home

- **Read together daily:** Encourage your child to join in with repeated refrains or retell stories they've heard.
  - **Practice letter formation:** Use a variety of materials, such as chalk, sand, or finger paint.
  - **Explore celebrations:** Share your family's experiences or discuss the celebrations they are learning about in school.
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### Contact Us

We are always here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to speak to us at drop-off or pick-up, or contact us through the school office.

We look forward to a term filled with celebrations, learning, and joy!

**Best wishes,**

Mrs. Brotherton and the Reception / Year 1 Team