

Topic Overview

During this half term we find out about lots of different types of celebrations and how individuals and families have their own traditions and customs.

We would love to hear all about your cultural celebrations and family traditions.

If you have any photographs or artefacts that we could look at in class, please let us know.

Alternatively, you are welcome to come in and tell us all about your family customs or celebrations at a time to suit you.

During this topic we also learn about, and celebrate, the changing seasons. The children will learn the names of the four seasons and begin to recognise the ways the weather changes in each season.

To help us with our learning, we will investigate changes in temperature and state by exploring ice and working out how to make it melt.



Autumn 2 Topic 'Let's Celebrate'



Our focus texts this half term

Diary Dates:

Phonics Workshops at 9 am

Monday 10th November - Angelfish
Tuesday 11th November - Seahorses

Parents Evenings (Book via Arbor)

Tuesday 18th November
Thursday 20th November

Donations for Christmas Fete

Friday 21st November

Christmas Nativity

Monday 15th December 9.15am

Please note tickets are limited to two per child. Tickets will be available from the school office from Monday 1st December

Lighthouse Pantomime Visit

Wednesday 17th December (please make payments via Arbor)

Friday 19th December - last day of term. **School finishes at 1.15pm.**
No Seashells after-school club available

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day (no children in school)

Tuesday 6th January - return to school

Expected outcomes in Literacy

Reading

By Christmas children are expected to...
Recall all taught sounds and tricky words
Sound out to read (blend) CVC words containing taught sounds
(e.g. d-o-g: dog. m-a-p: map)

Writing

By Christmas children are expected to...
Write recognisable taught letters
Write letters from their own name
Build CVC words (using taught sounds)

How to Help at Home

Continue to practise writing names (in lower case letters but starting with a capital letter!)

Share a story every day

Practise recognising letters in the environment: saying the alphabet name of the letter and the sound it makes (phonics)

Talk like a robot! This means, splitting simple words (such as mat, sit, hat) into individual sounds. Can your child guess the word?

Key Vocabulary in Expressive Art and Design

These are the key words that we will be using with the children. Please use them at home too!

paint, painting, red, yellow, blue, print, printing, rub, rubbing, draw, drawing, pinch, roll, stretch, squeeze

Key Vocabulary in Understanding the World (Science)

These are the key words that we will be using with the children. Please use them at home too!

Autumn, winter, spring, summer, seasons, cold, warm, ice, melt, freeze, changes

In Early Years, we have 7 Areas of Learning.
These are the different areas and what children will be learning in each one **by the end of Autumn 2 (by Christmas)**

Communication and Language

- Speak in well-formed sentences
 - Confidently use four-to-six-word sentences
- Speak in a sequence of sentences that link together
 - Talk about familiar books
- Hold a brief back and forth exchange with others
- Follow a series of instructions e.g. a 2-step instruction followed by another 2-step instruction

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Use words to express how they feel
- Have another go at something they find hard
- Seek friendships and require support to maintain them if needed
 - Follow taught routines and rules and take steps to look after themselves. Such as taking responsibility for personal hygiene (mainly toileting)
 - To be reliably dry throughout the day
- Can tolerate delay when their needs are not immediately met

Physical Development

FINE MOTOR

- Using writing implements to draw shapes and some taught letters
- Working on our pen grip – aiming to use 3 fingers when holding a pencil/pen (not whole hand)
 - Using a secure grip when using a different tools, e.g. paintbrush and spatula

GROSS MOTOR

- Working on our coordination in basic movements, e.g. rolling, crawling, walking, jumping, running, hopping, skipping and climbing
 - Engaging in twice-weekly PE lessons (Wednesdays and Fridays)
 - Using large construction to build
 - Learning to sit upright, unsupported on the carpet for increasing periods of time
 - Learning to sit correctly on a chair (tummy to table, feet on floor)
 - Learning to bend at the wrist to support with writing

Literacy

Reading

- Read common exception words taught so far
- Have phoneme grapheme correspondence for the alphabet
- Segment simple CVC (consonant vowel consonant words)
- Blend to read simple CVC words (consonant vowel consonant)

Writing

- Write some recognisable letters
- Write letters from their own name
- Hear the starting sound in words and record correctly
- Begin to hear medial and end sounds in words, and attempt to record these

Maths

Number

- Using 1:1 correspondence when counting
- Learning the names of shapes – circle, triangle, square, and the number of sides
 - Identifying things that are – longer, shorter, empty, full
- Using positional language, e.g. top, middle, inside, between
 - Subitising and sequencing numbers to 3
 - Writing numbers 1, 2 and 3

Numerical Patterns

- Looking at different groups and identifying which one has more, less, or if they both have the same
- Understanding and using vocabulary such as tall, long, short, big, large and small
 - Creating a simple ABAB pattern

Expressive Art and Design

Art

- Draw shapes e.g. circle for head
- Draw straight and curved lines (link writing)
 - Name the colours red, yellow and blue
- Use a secure grip to hold a paintbrush, pencil etc

Design and Technology

- Experiment with different tools, equipment and materials
 - Say what they like about their creations

Music

- Sing some taught nursery rhymes/songs
- Respond appropriately to signals showing whether it is their turn or the teacher's turn to sing or chant
 - Join in with songs and rhymes
 - Show an awareness of musical heartbeat /pulse

Understanding the World

History

- Talking about who makes up our families and describing them
 - Talking about things that have happened

Geography

- Using taught vocabulary e.g. road, home, street, school

Science

- Making a simple link between cause and effect, eg if I add hot water, the ice will melt

Religious Education

- Naming some special times that people like to celebrate
- Naming some characters from the traditional Christmas story

Computing

- Knowing who to talk to if something worries me online