



Nursery Autumn Term Newsletter

2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Nursery!

We are delighted to welcome your child to Nursery and support them as they begin their learning journey! We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that your child has a happy, successful and enjoyable year.

Learning in Nursery follows the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum with learning split into 7 areas.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language is a key part of learning in Nursery. We will provide lots of opportunities for the children to develop their listening, attention and speaking skills throughout the day.



The children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences, share their ideas and express their thoughts and feelings. Through stories, songs, rhymes, role play and discussions, we will introduce new vocabulary and encourage the children to use new words in context.

In the Autumn Term, we will focus on:

- Looking and listening to stories during carpet time
- Joining in with nursery rhymes
- Building vocabulary through play and interactions with adults
- Communicating needs to adults

We encourage you to support your child's communication and language development at home by talking to them regularly, sharing books and stories, singing nursery rhymes and asking questions about their day. Giving children time to respond and encouraging them to explain their ideas, will help to develop their confidence and vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



During the Autumn Term, the children will continue to develop their confidence and independence as they become familiar with daily rules and routines.

Key learning this term is to:

- Begin to follow Nursery routines
- Learn to share toys
- Learn to wait their turn
- Name basic emotions e.g., happy, sad, angry, worried
- Use the toilet independently

We encourage children to become increasingly independent with everyday tasks such as putting on their coats, fastening shoes and looking after their belongings.

Physical Development

Physical Development is an important part of our Nursery curriculum, with gross motor skills forming the foundational support for fine motor skills and later handwriting development. The children will have regular opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills through both indoor and outdoor activities.

The children will take part in daily movement activities, outdoor learning and games. We will also develop their fine motor skills, strengthening hand muscles through activities such as drawing, painting, cutting, threading and playdough.

Literacy

During the Autumn Term, we will share a wide variety of carefully chosen stories, non-fiction books and rhymes including:

- *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas
- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *My Hair* by Hannah Lee
- *Cuddly Dudley* by Jez Alborough
- *Meesha Makes Friends* by Tom Percival
- *Dear Santa* by Rod Campbell

Songs and rhymes include:

- If You're Happy and You Know It
- The Hokey Cokey
- Miss Polly Had a Dolly
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- Twinkle Little Star



Children will learn to recognise their names on their coat pegs and self-registration cards.

They will explore mark making in a range of situations to develop pre and early writing skills including drawing lines and circles.

Mathematics

In the Autumn Term, the children will have opportunities to:

- Explore shapes
- Sort by colour and size
- Hear and say number names and count objects
- Listen to and start to join in with number songs

We encourage you to practise counting at home, such as counting toys, steps, objects around the house or items while shopping.



Understanding the World

During the Autumn Term, the children will have opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and family
- Observe and talk about weather and seasonal changes
- Learn about seasonal celebrations including: Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas

Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout the Autumn Term, the children are supported to develop their creativity and imagination through a range of activities including:

- Junk modelling
- Painting, drawing and printing
- Cutting and sticking to create collages
- Making things with playdough
- Joining in with songs and dances
- Developing their imagination through playing with 'small world' toys and role play activities



Reading



We recommend you spend at least 10 minutes a day reading books with your child.

Your child will start by bringing home a wordless reading book. Please spend time talking about the pictures in the book with your child, asking questions and encouraging them to talk about what they think is happening in the story.

Please record your child's reading in their reading record, signing it daily.

Additional optional home learning ideas will be shared on the Nursery page of the school website and via Class Dojo.

School Uniform

It is important that children wear the correct school uniform every day and that all items of clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. Children should wear appropriate school shoes that they can manage as independently as possible – no laces. Please also send in a change of clothes in case your child's clothes get wet during play or they have a toilet accident.

With the weather becoming cooler and more changeable, please ensure your child has a suitable coat in school as we will be spending lots of time outdoors.

Snacks and Water

As part of our healthy school approach, children should bring a named water bottle containing water only. They will have access to their water throughout the day. At snack time, we encourage children to enjoy a healthy fruit or vegetable snack that is provided by the school. Children will also be offered milk every day via the Cool Milk programme which is **free until the age of five**.

Independence

One of our key priorities in Nursery is developing children's independence.

Please encourage your child to practise:

- Putting on and taking off their coat
- Putting on their shoes
- Using the toilet independently
- Washing and drying their hands
- Tidying away toys.

These small steps make a big difference to children's confidence and help them to become successful, independent learners.

Communication

We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's Nursery journey. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, development or welfare, please do not hesitate to speak to us by sending an email to our year group email address nursery@whitehallschool.org. You can also use your child's reading record to write quick messages for the class teacher or speak to an adult on duty at the Nursery door.

We are very excited about the term ahead and all of the wonderful learning experiences we have planned for the children. Once we have all of the Class Dojo consent forms back from parents, we can start to post our weekly photo updates showing the learning that has taken place in your child's class.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mosca, Mrs Armaghan and Miss Alley

The Nursery Team