



YEAR R NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN ONE 2026

The Year R team are excited to welcome all children into school this half term and we are looking forward to getting to know all the children in Ladybirds and Bumblebees.

WHAT'S ON THIS HALF TERM - Julia Donaldson

Throughout this theme the children will be spending time familiarising themselves with their new classroom. Using some well loved Julia Donaldson books, the children will learn about our school rules of 'Be ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe'. They will spend lots of time getting to make new friends with their peers and buddies. They will talk about feelings and rules, where the children will learn to work as a team and ensure that everyone is happy at school.

We will be talking throughout this theme about which Julia Donaldson book is our favourite (mine is 'The Snail and the Whale') – you could upload a picture of your child sharing their favourite story at home to Tapestry for them to share with their friends at school. We will also be making 'Gruffalo Crumble' and writing postcards from the snail, among lots of other exciting activities.



LITERACY

In **phonics** we will be learning the first set of phonics sounds and beginning to try and put these together to read simple words. We will update you weekly via Tapestry about the sounds that we have learnt that week.

MATHS



In **maths** we will be matching, sorting and comparing objects and then learning to find, represent and subitise numbers under 5 before exploring the composition of 1,2,3

Physical Development: to use their core muscle strength to achieve good posture when sitting, developing their fine motor skills so that they can use a range of small tools safely such as scissors, brushes etc and become increasingly independent in dressing such as putting coats on and doing them up, putting wellies on etc.

Our welly walk this half term will: Be walking around the school grounds and then over to the church



'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' John 10:10

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Reading - we ask that children read at **least 4x per week** and that this is recorded in their online reading log (Page Ticker), this could include books that adults have read to their child. Your child's class teacher will check this regularly.

High frequency words - We really appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their rainbow high frequency words. They will be tested each week when they read with their teacher in school. There are 9 sets of words to learn across the year. We will test your child on these words weekly in school.

Maths - Encourage your child to sing counting songs such as 5 Little Speckled Frogs and 5 Currant Buns.

Our parent event this half term is:

Our Gruffalo picnic - we'd love you to join us for a Gruffalo picnic on Thursday 15th October - Time: 2:15pm – end of day What to bring: A small Gruffalo themed picnic for you and your child to share, for example - Blackcurrant jelly (purple prickly juice), grapes (green warts), vegetable crudité (scrambled snake)

Please feel free to be as imaginative as you wish!

At 2:15, Mrs Riley will run a parent information session for 15 minutes, designed for you to understand the teaching methods we use in school and to explain the Year R curriculum to you. This particular session will mainly focus on early reading. After the information session you will be able to join your child for a Gruffalo themed picnic.

DIARY DATES

Please visit the school calendar regularly for updates.



Attendance

We monitor attendance carefully as there is a strong link between attendance and achievement. Days off add up to lost learning.

We appreciate your support in allowing your child to access the education they deserve.



Julia Donaldson Dress Up Day

On Thursday 15th October we invite all children to come to school dressed as their favourite Julia Donaldson character - the teachers will also be dressing up!

GETTING IN TOUCH



Teachers are happy to help and are generally available at the end of the school day or by email. Please do not try to catch them in the mornings while they are settling the children. Urgent messages can be passed to the school office. Please allow up to 2 school days for email responses as teachers are child-facing during the day.

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