Reception - Autumn 2026

Our topic in Ladybird Class this half term is **'Nursery Rhymes.'**
The children's interests will continually be used to inform the direction which our topic takes.



Communication and Language

We will continue circle time sessions and encouraging the children to join in with class discussions. We will focus on how we are all different and what makes us special.
As a class, we will be learning more sounds in our phonics sessions, as well as practising to identify the initial and final sounds in words.

Physical Development

Please note, PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday mornings this half term.
In our PE sessions, we will start exploring different movements and creating dances to link with several nursery rhymes. We will be learning a range of gymnastic skills and build up to including small apparatus.
Fine motor activities will be continuously available and incorporated in lessons.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to develop our Hampton Dene Discoverers focus for this term 'Independence'. The children will be encouraged to express their feelings and to respect the feelings of the other children and adults. We will be discussing a range of emotions through our story 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears' and our 'Feelings Monsters'.

English

We will be sharing and singing specific nursery rhymes every day, as well as reading some fairy tales.
Each child will complete a range of written tasks to develop their fine motor skills and letter formation. We will think of adjectives to describe how Humpty Dumpty felt, sequence stories, identify rhyming words and create a wanted poster. We will also be writing letters to Santa.
The children will continue writing over yellow pencil, tracing over dots or copying words to support their mark making.

Maths

In Maths, we will learn about positional language by creating treasure maps and set up obstacle courses to build on our knowledge of spatial awareness.
We will develop our understanding of counting, ordinality and cardinality of numbers within 5.
We will compare sets of groups by 'looking' and 'matching', as well as using language of comparison such as more than, less than and equal to.
The children will also be introduced to 'part-whole models' whilst exploring the composition of numbers within 5.

Understanding the World

We will explore a range of everyday materials and conduct an experiment to see which material would make a 'soft landing' for Humpty Dumpty. We will also work in groups to make a wall for Humpty Dumpty to sit on.

As a class, we will discuss key events such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas. We will also learn about the change in season to winter.

How you can help

Please continue to share books/stories regularly and ask your child questions about what you have read. Encourage your child to write their name independently, and copy words by demonstrating the correct letter formation. Practise body taps from 0 – 10 and continue recognising numbers from 0 – 5 and beyond. If you could regularly sing nursery rhymes with your child, this will support our topic sessions too. Thank you!

Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout this half term, we will be singing nursery rhymes on a daily basis.
We will start by creating firework pictures using paint in the style of Jackson Pollock. The children will make a range of artwork linking to specific nursery rhymes e.g. handprint spiders, humpty dumpty collage and bubble wrap stars.
We will also make salt dough Christmas tree decorations.