Welcome to Reception, Hedgehog Class!

The first few weeks will be an exciting time as children settle into their first year of Primary School at the Dassett and their final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). First and foremost, we will be working to ensure your children feel safe and happy school, ready for all the learning they will do! The start of term will be very much focussed on getting to know each other, our school and its routines, rules and expectations. We will be sharing our learning via our weekly school newsletter and the digital platform Tapestry. Whole school messages will be via Class Dojo.



English, Phonics & Handwriting.

Nursery rhymes build the foundation of a child's phonological awareness by teaching them to hear, identify, and manipulate the sound structures hidden within spoken language. In Autumn 1 we will be focusing on a range of nursery rhymes, some familiar some less so, to develop children's sound discrimination as they develop their phonemic awareness. Rhymes include Baa Baa Black Sheep, Jack Be Nimble, Hickory Dickory Dock, Little Miss Tuffet and Pop Goes the Weasel.

Sharing stories and poems is a key focus in Reception and texts will be used to deliver the curriculum across all areas of learning. Texts will be used to help children learn about the different genres of text, fiction, non-fiction or poetry exposing children to the purpose of different texts and fostering a love of reading. Children will usually end both their morning and afternoon sessions with the sharing of a book or recital of a poem.

We follow the Department for Education (DfE) approved phonics scheme from Twinkl. It uses a structured, multi-sensory approach, combining stories, catchy mnemonics, physical actions, and automated flashcards, to teach children how to read and write. In the Autumn term children will be practising the skills of oral segmenting and blending. They will learn the letters sounds of Level 2 and will learn to sounding out and blending letter sounds to read words made from these sounds. Children will also participate in a wide range of daily activities designed to support their gross and fine motor skills necessary for writing and writing activities from the Twinkl Handwriting Scheme.

Children will visit the library once a week and will bring home a book to share for pleasure, this is likely to be a book that they are not yet able to decode that their grown-ups can read to them. They will also have a book from the Twinkl reading scheme, Rhino Readers. Books will initially be from Level 1 and are interactive, shared-reading books designed to build essential pre-reading and listening skills before they start learning letter sounds in Level 2.



Maths

We follow the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) which focuses on building deep number sense, spatial reasoning, and a strong foundational mastery of early maths through practical, playful activities. The term is carefully sequenced into small steps that build confidence and prevent children from feeling overwhelmed:

- Subitising (Numbers 1 to 5): This is the ability to look at a small group of items and instantly know how many there are without counting them one by one (like looking at the dots on a dice). Children start with recognizing groups of 1, 2, and 3, and gradually move up to 5.
- Counting, Cardinality, and Ordinality: Children practice verbally counting forward and backward (initially within 10). They learn that the last number they say when counting a group of items tells them exactly "how many" are in total (the cardinal principle).Composition of Numbers: This involves exploring how numbers are "made". For instance, children will discover that 4 can be made of 3 and 1, or 2 and 2.
- Comparing Quantities: Using objects, children learn to compare groups and confidently use mathematical language such as "more than", "fewer than", or "the same as".
- Pattern Awareness: Patterning is considered the heart of early algebraic thinking. Children spend time noticing, copying, extending, and creating simple patterns (such as Red-Blue-Red-Blue or AB/ABC structures).
- Shapes and Spatial Awareness: Children begin to explore 2D and 3D shapes (like circles and triangles) in different positions and orientations, using informal language to describe them.

We also use episodes from the BBC CBeebies series Numberblocks as a launchpad to support the introduction of mathematical concepts.

Religious Education (RE)

We follow the Agreed Syllabus for Coventry and Warwickshire Religious Education as advised by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). This sets out a clear vision for children to develop their worldviews alongside case studies from various religions. In Autumn 1 children will explore the Question -how do people show they belong?

In Autumn 2 we are following the Understanding Christianity unit 'Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?' which explores the theme of Incarnation and that Christians believe God came to Earth in human form as Jesus and believe Jesus came to show that all people are precious and special to God.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)



We follow the whole school Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Jigsaw programme, which teaches emotional literacy, mindfulness and social skills. They will be introduced to Jigsaw Jenie who will help children build their emotional literacy, talk about their feelings and help children gain confidence when speaking and listening during group time. They will also me Jerrie Cat, who helps children to learn to stop and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, or recent learning.



Autumn 1 our topic is **Being Me in My World**. Children will talk about how they have similarities and differences from their friends and how that is OK. They will begin working on recognising and managing their feelings, identifying different ones and the causes these can have. The children talk about working with others and why it is good to be kind and use gentle hands. They discuss children's rights, especially linked to the right to learn

and the right to play. The children talk about what it means to be responsible, especially in relation to jobs we all do in the classroom, such as looking after our classroom and school.

In Autumn 2 our Topic is **Celebrating Difference**. Children will be encouraged to think about things that they are good at whilst understanding that everyone is good at different things. They will talk about being different and how that makes everyone special but also recognising that we are the same in some ways. The children will talk about their homes and are asked to explain why it is special to them. They will talk about friendship and how to be a kind friend and how to stand up for themselves if someone says or does something unkind to them.

Cornerstones
Autumn 1 our projects this half term will be



Once Upon a Time This project supports children to develop a love of stories and reading. It encourages children to learn, retell and act out familiar and traditional tales including 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Cindrella', 'The Princess and the Pea', 'The Little Red Hen' and 'There is No Dragon in This Story!' It's companion project



Exploring Autumn This project teaches children about the natural changes that happen during the season of autumn, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves and how wild animals prepare for winter. Our Forest School sessions to support this learning will be on a Friday afternoon.

In Autumn 2 our projects this half term will be



Marvellous Machines This interest-led project teaches children about the technology that is part of their daily lives and how machines help us. The project gives children the opportunity to build and create marvellous machines.



Sparkle and Shine This project will teach children about the celebrations that take place during the autumn and winter seasons, and focus on the significance and symbolism of light at this time of year.

Physical Education (PE)
PE Sessions will be on a Friday morning with Mr. Stops from On-side Coaching. Children will come into school in their PE kit.

Autumn 1 Basic Multi Skills with a focus on throwing and catching.
Children will

- move freely, with pleasure and confidence in a range of skilful ways where they will be encouraged to run in a controlled way, changing speed and direction to avoid obstacles.
- learn to accept the needs of others
- become aware of boundaries set and behaviour expectations.

Autumn 2 Gymnastics Children will

- learn how to use low level apparatus such as benches, low agility tables, top vault and gymnastics mats safely, learning how to get on and off them, landing correctly.
- take turns on the equipment and explore different ways to move over the different apparatus.
- As their confidence and skills progress children will begin to use more complex equipment, including wall bars.

Music (Charanga)

In Autumn 1 our unit of learning is **Chant to the Animals**. In this unit of learning children will explore and learn chants that tell a story. They will learn that a chant uses speaking voices musically. In this unit, the children will learn two chants: Banana Rap by Jane Sebba and We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. By learning these chants, the children will start to understand that there are different ways to use our voice in music and that chants use the spoken voice rhythmically and musically.

In Autumn 2 Music is linked with our Understanding Christianity topic 'Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?' and the focus will be on learning songs for our Nativity performance.