CORBY PRIMARY ACADEMY





Reception Newsletter – Autumn 2

Welcome

Welcome back for **Autumn 2**! The children have settled into school life so quickly and we are incredibly proud of how confident and independent they are becoming. Our topic this half term is **Special People, Special Times**, where we will be learning about the important people in our lives and exploring a range of special celebrations, including Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah and Christmas. Through stories, creative activities, role play and discussions, we will be encouraging the children to share their own experiences while continuing to develop their reading, writing and maths skills. It is always a busy and exciting half term with lots to look forward to, and we can't wait to share our learning with you! 💛 ✨

Phonics



This half term, we will continue following the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics programme, learning new sounds and skills each week to support the children's reading and writing development.

Week 1: ff, ll, ss, j

Week 2: v, w, x, y

Week 3: z, zz, qu, words ending in s (/s/) such as *hats* and *sits*, and ch

Week 4: sh, th, ng, nk

Week 5: words ending in s (/s/) such as *hats* and *sits*, and words ending in s (/z/) such as *his* and *bags*

We will also learn the tricky words: put, pull, full, as, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, push, he, of, we, me and be.

Children will continue to bring home a reading for pleasure book, which will usually be changed on a Monday, alongside their Little Wandle reading book. This half term, we will begin our formal group reading sessions three times a week, helping the children to build confidence, fluency and comprehension. Reading books will be sent home in book bags for you to enjoy together before being returned the following Monday.

Please ensure that book bags, reading books and reading diaries are brought into school every day. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home.

Literacy

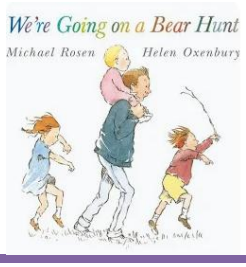


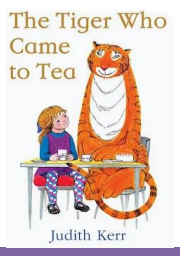
In Literacy, we will continue to develop the children's early writing skills by encouraging them to hear and write the first sound in words before progressing to writing simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words independently. We will also focus on **consolidating a correct pencil grip**, helping children to develop the strength, control

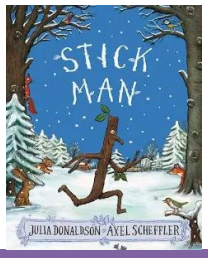
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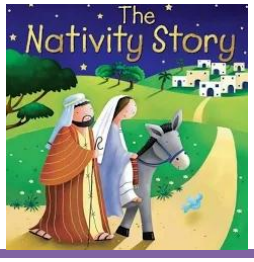
and confidence needed for effective writing. Through daily activities, mark-making opportunities and teacher modelling, the children will practise forming letters correctly and applying their phonics knowledge in their writing.

Our half-term topic, **'Special People, Special Times'**, will provide many opportunities for speaking, listening, reading and writing, and we will use a range of fiction and non-fiction texts as a stimulus, including...









Maths



This half term, children will continue to build strong foundations in early number skills through practical, hands-on activities. They will compare sets by matching and using key vocabulary such as **more than, fewer than** and **equal to**, while developing a deeper understanding of the concepts of **whole and part**. We will explore the composition of numbers 3, 4 and 5, helping children to recognise that numbers can be made in different ways. The children will also practise counting objects accurately, matching numerals to quantities up to 10, and developing their verbal counting skills beyond 10. These experiences will strengthen their number sense, mathematical reasoning and confidence in using maths in everyday situations. 🔢✨

Communication and Language



As part of our **'Special People, Special Times'** topic, the children will have lots of opportunities to talk about the important people, celebrations and special moments in their lives. Through stories, songs, role play and small-group discussions, they will develop their speaking and listening skills by learning to listen carefully, take turns in conversations and respond appropriately to others. We will introduce and explore new vocabulary linked to celebrations, feelings and special occasions, helping children to describe their experiences and ideas in greater detail. By sharing, discussing and asking questions, the children will build confidence in expressing themselves and communicating effectively in a range of different situations. 💬✨

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Our PSED learning this half term will be closely linked to our **'Special People, Special Times'** topic and will be supported through the **SCARF** and **Pol-Ed** schemes. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, the children will explore friendships, family relationships, feelings and the importance of showing kindness and respect to others. They will also learn about celebrations and special occasions, helping them to develop a sense of belonging and appreciation for different experiences and traditions. These opportunities will support the children's confidence, resilience, social skills and emotional wellbeing, creating a happy, caring and inclusive classroom environment.

Physical Development



We will continue to learn how to hold a pencil using our 'three friends' grip, and we will be practising different letter formations each week. We learn these in grouped families of letters that are similar in their formation.

We will also continue to develop strength in our outdoor area using a range of different resources including the bikes, scooters, hula hoops, large building blocks and spaces to roll. We will be accessing our wheeled toys on 'Wheelie Wednesdays' and 'Fun Fridays' each week.

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Formal PE lessons will take place **every Monday**, so children will be required to come to school wearing their PE kits and trainers on this day please.

Understanding the World



We will explore a range of festivals and celebrations throughout the half term, beginning with **Bonfire Night** and **Remembrance Day** before learning about **Hanukkah and Christmas**. The children will discover how these occasions are celebrated, hear the stories behind them, and explore the music, art and traditions that make each one special. We will compare different celebrations, discussing what is similar and what is unique, helping children develop an appreciation of different cultures and beliefs. This learning links closely with our RE unit, *What Happens at a Festival?*, encouraging children to think about why celebrations are important to people. As part of our wider learning, we will also enjoy an **autumn walk** to observe seasonal changes in the local environment and take part in a fun **science experiment for Children in Need**, using the power of air to make **Pudsey's spots move without touching them!**

Expressive Arts and Design



In **Art and Music**, we will make links to the festivals and celebrations we are learning about throughout the half term. The children will create a range of seasonal artwork, including **glittery firework pictures for Bonfire Night**, **Remembrance Day poppies**, and a variety of **Christmas crafts and cards**. We will explore different artistic techniques, colours and materials to help bring these celebrations to life. In Music, the children will listen to and respond to music linked to different festivals and cultures, as well as learning and practising the songs for our **Nativity performance**, ready to share with families in December. More details to follow...

Helping your child learn at home



Please continue to support your child in developing their independence, particularly with putting on and taking off their coat, changing their shoes and managing their belongings. We would also appreciate your support with toileting skills, including wiping independently and remembering to wash hands thoroughly without prompts. A small bag of **named spare clothes** kept on your child's peg would be very helpful.

When your child brings home their school reading book, please try to **hear them read at least four times each week**, recording any reading in their diary. Regular reading practice has a huge impact on children's confidence, fluency and progress. Don't forget to enjoy plenty of bedtime stories together too, as sharing books helps develop a lifelong love of reading.

In Maths, please support your child by helping them recognise numerals 1-5 and by talking about maths in everyday life, such as noticing door numbers, counting objects, comparing quantities and spotting patterns in the environment.

Finally, please ensure your child arrives at school each day with everything they need, including their **book bag, reading book, reading diary, water bottle and appropriate outdoor clothing**.

As always, please ensure EVERYTHING is labelled with your child's name.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes a huge difference to your child's learning and confidence.

Enrichment



To enrich our learning this half term, we will be continue to explore the signs of **Autumn** through a range of hands-on activities and investigations. We would be grateful if you could help us by sending in any **autumnal treasures** you find on walks, such as colourful leaves, conkers, acorns, pine cones, seed pods or twigs. These will be used in our classroom for observation, sorting, counting, artwork and seasonal displays. Please ensure that any items are clean and safe for handling. Thank you for helping us bring the wonders of Autumn into our classroom!

Corby Primary Academy







Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. They also receive a **Dojo Point** every time they **read at home**, so please remember to record comments in reading diaries after EVERY READ.

Class information

Buttercups Class Teacher: Mrs Meehan
lmeehan@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Sunflowers Class Teacher: Mrs Esler
resler@corbyprimaryacademy.org

Supported by: Mrs Reeves, Miss Bernard & Mrs Dennet

Please do not allow your child to bring any toys from home because they tend to get lost!

Please remember to label EVERYTHING that is brought into school, including cardigans/jumpers, coats, water bottles, lunch boxes, book bags etc

Please remember, if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts or honey as we are a no nut school.

Dates for the diary!



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Autumn 2

Monday 2nd November - School reopens for pupils
Tuesday 3rd November – 2027 Reception Intake Tour - 4pm
Thursday 5th November - Book & Biscuit session - 2.40pm - KS1
W/B Monday 9th November – Y2 PiXL Week
W/B Monday 9th November – Y6 PiXL Week
Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day
Friday 13th November - Children in Need Day (Mufti-Day)
W/B Monday 16th November - Anti-Bullying Week
W/B Monday 16th November – Road Safety Week
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day
W/B Monday 23rd November – UK Parliament Week
Wednesday 2nd December - Wednesday 9th December - Book Fair
Thursday 3rd December – Pupil Leadership Team visit to Houses of Parliament
Monday 7th December - KS1 Christmas Performance - 2pm
Tuesday 8th December –– Choir and Instrumental Recitals (Gillian Farmer) 9.15am &
Y4 Ukelele Concert – 2.30pm
Wednesday 9th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.15am
Wednesday 9th December – Reception Christmas Performance – 2pm
Thursday 10th December – Reception Christmas Performance – 9.15am
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day/ Christmas Jumper
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Fayre / Father Christmas - 3.15pm
Friday 11th December – Nursery Christmas Sing-Along – 9:15am and party day (am & pm)
Monday 14th December – Rock Steady Concert – 2pm
Tuesday 15th December LKS2 (Y3&4) Christmas Concert – 2pm
Wednesday 16th December – UKS2 (Y5&6) Christmas Concert - 2pm
Friday 18th December – House Assembly
Friday 18th December - School closes to pupils for Christmas

