



Year R Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome to Year R! We are very excited to meet your wonderful children and hope they have a happy and confident start to their first year of school. Our topic this term will be 'Outside Inside'. We will look at seasons, weather and all things outdoorsy. We also focus on supporting the children settling into Nutfield Church Primary, learning the behaviour expectations in school, making friends and discussing of our feelings.

After half term our topic will be 'The Amazing Me'. In this topic we will look at celebrating our differences.

As a school we have six Christian values, the first school value this term is Community and after half term the value will be Peace

English

We will begin the term by recognising and writing our names. We will begin to retell our own stories through pictures and mark making. We will be learning stories by joining in with repeated refrains in texts such as 'Oh Dear, Look What I Got'. Towards the end of the term, we will Label monsters and write kind notes. After half term the children will be beginning to apply their growing phonic knowledge to reading and writing activities, for example writing labels and captions. We will also be looking at describing words and learning the difference between fiction and non-fiction books.

Maths

We follow the White Rose programme of study. In the first term the units covered include: Match, Sort and Compare; Talk about Measure; It's me 1,2,3; Circles and Triangles; 1,2,3,4,5; Shapes with 4 Sides. Children are taught through whole class inputs, small focus groups and targeted activities made available in the classroom's enhanced provision. In the Autumn term, children will learn to match objects, sort objects into types and create rules based on their observations. They will investigate size, mass and capacity as well as exploring and creating simple patterns. They will learn about numbers 1–5 including their composition, representation and how to subitise as well as identifying one more or one less of a given number between 1–5.

PSED (personal, social and emotional development)

PSED is crucial at this point in the year and there will be a lot of emphasis on social skills this term. We will be working together to settle in to Nutfield Church Primary School. We will model the good behaviour and begin to try to make friends within the classroom by talking and listening to others during circle time. Staff will be encouraging the children to initiate conversations and to take account of what others say. After half term we will be learning how to resolve conflicts, cooperation skills and how to express feelings or anger, sadness and frustration. We are following the Jigsaw PSHE scheme where Jigsaw Jenie teaches us across different topics. This term is: Who am I and How do I fit? And Respect for similarities and differences.

Phonics

As a school we use the Oxford Owl' Essential Letters and Sounds phonic programme. Over the next term we will be learning Phase 2 and some phase 3 phonemes. Please encourage your children to consolidate their understanding of these phonemes when they are reading to you. Each half term we will be sending home a new set of phoneme cards in order for you to help your child at home.

Reading

Next week your child will receive their yellow reading log and first reading book. Please read regularly at home with your child as this is very important for the development of their reading skills. Please keep your reading record book in your child's book bag at all times. We encourage you to write any comments or observations in their reading records. Your comments are important to us. You will also find a log in for the Oxford Owl website on the inside page of your child's reading log. Here you can access online books which I have set that relate to the phonics learned that week.

Understanding the World

We will be focusing on the world around us and starting to talk about what came before (the past). We will be encouraging the children to talk about members of their immediate family and community and describe people who are familiar to them. By going on nature walks around the school grounds and visiting Trinity Farm, we will be able to explore the natural world around us and the changing seasons. After half term we will be talking about some places in our community. We will also be learning that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times throughout the year.

Physical Development

This term we are following the Intro to PE topic, where we will play games to develop Gross Motor Skills. These lessons will be on a Monday and the children will be required to come to school in their PE kit on this day (optional until Christmas). PE kits consist of a yellow Nutfield Church t-shirt, navy blue jogging bottoms or navy-blue shorts. Children may also bring a cardigan, jumper or fleece with them on these days too. I will remind you of this change nearer the time in our weekly homework letters. We will also be practicing for the Nativity in our PE lessons after half term.

Expressive Arts and design

Arts are a very important part of our learning in Reception. EAD covers art, music and drama skills.

The children will be using music to explore a story and learn how different sounds can convey different feelings. The children will be looking closely at themselves when they create self-portraits and will explore mixing colours.

After half term we will be looking closely at celebrations and the children will have fun creating Diwali, firework night and Christmas inspired art. Throughout the term the children will be learning songs through our music programme, Charanga and nursery rhymes.

RE and Collective Worship

Our focus this term in RE will be 'Who made this wonderful world?' and our topic after half term will be 'Christmas', these will link to our termly school values. There are daily whole school Collective Worship times where we will be extending our learning and understanding of our school values within our Christian community. Reception will initially have Collective Worship in class and start attending with the whole school after half term.

Homework

Other than daily reading there is no mandatory homework for children in Reception. However, to support your child's learning in phonics we will be sending home phonic and harder to read and spell words flashcards so your child can practice these regularly. Although flashcards are optional, we cannot stress enough how 5 minutes of phonics practice a day could make the world of difference for your child's reading and writing progress.

Uniform

Please adhere to the school's uniform policy which can be found on the website and ensure that all items are clearly named.

We will play and learn in our outside area in all weather so please ensure your child brings a named coat, hat, scarf and gloves daily when the weather gets colder.

Wellies are also advised for our outdoor learning, please ensure these are clearly named. These stay in school and can be returned at the end of each term if you choose.

Spare Clothes

Please could you provide your child with a set of spare clothes, and ideally a pack of baby wipes too. Each child has been given a coloured bag for their spare clothes, which will live on their peg. If your child has an accident, we will send their clothes home in this bag and kindly ask for it to be returned with fresh clothes as soon as possible.

Diary dates

*Thursday 10th September: Year R
Meet the Teacher; 3.25–4.15
(Classroom)*

*Wednesday 23rd September: Year R
Phonics Workshop, 3.30–4.15
(Classroom)*

*Friday 16th October: Harvest
Service at Christ Church, 9.30 am*

*Thursday 5th November: Year R
Buddy Collective Worship, 9.00 am
(Hall)*

*Monday 23rd November: Parent and
Carer Evening (3.30–6.00pm)*

*Tuesday 24th November: Parent and
Carer Evening (3.30–6.00pm)*

*Wednesday 25th November: Parent
and Carer Evening (3.30 –6.00 pm)*

*Monday 30th November: Blue shirt
day (St Andrews)*

*Monday 7th December: Nativity
Dress Rehearsal, 2.00–3.00pm*

*Tuesday 8th December: Nativity Per-
formance, 2.00–3.00pm*

*Wednesday 9th December: Nativity
Performance, 2.00–3.00pm*

*Wednesday 16th December: Christmas
Lunch*

*Friday 18th December: Christmas
Service at Christ Church, 9.30am*

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over the last few days and we are excited for the year ahead. Parent – teacher relationships are really important to us in EYFS and if you have any questions or concerns or just want to tell me something amazing your child has done please feel free to catch us in the playground at the end of the day. We are very happy to answer your queries and it is always good to see you! If you would like to speak with us more privately, please see us or write in the green home contact book to arrange an appointment.

Miss Gibbins and the Year R team