Autumn term 2nd half 2026

Reception class newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely half term break. This half term in Reception, we will be continuing our study of all things Autumn along with preparing for Christmas and Winter. We begin with a focus on Halloween, pumpkins and fireworks. These themes will develop with the children's interests. The provision in class is set up with some spooky enhancements with a focus on reading and writing. We will be encouraging children to practise their phonic skills at every opportunity! As the half term develops, we will also be learning about stars and darkness, winter trees, reindeer and hibernation along with events such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali and of course Christmas! We will be having Forest School sessions, exploring and being adventurous, as well as learning about being safe around the fire circle.

In Literacy, we will be focusing on the core texts of *Chapatti Moon*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *Secrets of Winter*, as well as learning the poem 'Pumpkin Pumpkin what do you see?'. We will also be sharing stories and non-fiction text to enhance our theme learning. We will continue with Phase 2 phonics, encouraging the children to blend and segment to read and spell words, moving on to simple captions and sentences. We will be focusing more on letter formation and name writing now too. If you are practising name-writing at home, please use the correct letter formation sent home. Each letter has a 'patter' to help the children remember how to form it. Children continue to receive a daily phonics session of 20 minutes. They will also be bringing home reading books to support their phonics learning and will take part in weekly Guided Reading sessions in small groups (we call this 'Cosy Club'). We will begin to learn 'tricky words' in phonics sessions – these are words that cannot be sounded out and blended but simply must be learnt by sight. Your child has already received a bookmark with the first 6 tricky words on.

In Maths, we will be consolidating our understanding of numbers 1-5, learning about how each number is made up (number bonds) and exploring subitising and grouping. We will compare numbers 1-5, explore changes within numbers 1-5 (one more and one less) and explore the conservation of number. We will learn about the 'rules of counting' and continue to use Numberblocks to enhance learning. We will move on to numbers 6-10 using our fantastic Numberland resources, learning about ten frames and how to use these to spot patterns and groups within numbers to 10.

Characteristics of learning

In Reception, we have a big focus on 'being a learner' and how to do this. We will be discussing and observing children's engagement in learning (child led but also adult directed!), their motivation to learn along with their thinking skills and ideas.

We will be learning songs for our Christmas performance this half term – have you put the date in your diary for our play? (2pm on Monday 7th December). We will also be reading *The Colour Monster* as part of our personal and social development – learning all about our feelings and emotions.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Boon and the EYFS team

Children will have P.E every **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Please make sure children have correct P.E kit and long hair is tied back / earrings are removed. We will be focusing on Fundamental Movement skills along with activities to enhance our core strength.

Outdoor learning – children will have daily access to outdoors (where it is safe to do so). We begin by encouraging the children to create spooky spells and potions for Halloween. We will be taking the class on Nature Walks in our local area too to enhance their understanding of the current season and explore / have fun. Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Thompson, accompanies us on these walks but we also welcome parents / carers if you wish! We will let you know in advance when we plan to go.

Please remember you can send your Wow moments to: enquiries@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk – or you are welcome to use Tapestry to send photos and key moments if you wish.

If you want to see what we are up to in class, we will be sharing photos and notes via Tapestry too – keep your eye out for loads of fun activities going on! Please like our posts so we know you have seen them.

Key dates this half term:

Monday 2nd November – back to school!
Friday 6th November – non uniform day – bring a jar

Thursday 12th November – we have a student, Maddie, joining us for a few months
Thursday 12th November – Stay and Read session after school for Reception parents / carers, their child and any siblings (in class – 20 mins – hot chocolate and biscuits provided!)

Friday 20th November – PTFA jumble sale event

Friday 27th November – interim reports sent home (an indication of how your child is getting on). Mrs Boon on a course all day

Monday 30th November – Parent Interview meetings 1.30pm until 7pm
Thursday 3rd December – Silent Disco

Monday 7th December – Reception Christmas play in the school hall 2pm
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11th December – whole school pantomime

Monday 14th December – Christingle event in school
Thursday 17th December – class parties. Special visitor in school!
Friday 18th December – finish for the Christmas holidays, 1.30pm