We are kind | We are brave | We are responsible | We are learners ,

# Mount Pleasant Lane Primary School

## EYFS Curriculum Newsletter




### Acorns and Conkers Class - Autumn Term 2 – 2026

Dear EYFS parents and carers,

Welcome to the new half term! We hope you had a restful break. This half term we have a focus on celebrations, the light & dark including nocturnal animals and hibernation, which means there are lots of lovely activities to enhance the children's learning.

### EYFS Team



**Mrs Tyler**
(Reception Class Teacher)



**Mrs Whitlock**
(Nursery Practioner)



**Mrs Sycamore**
(Teaching Assistant)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Key dates for your diary**<br> | ➢ *Tuesday 17th November Parents Evening (appointments made via ARBOR)*<br>➢ *Friday 13th November - PTA Pyjama Day*<br>➢ *Wednesday 18th November - Parents Evening (appointments made via ARBOR)*<br>➢ *Friday 27th November - SCHOOL CLOSED Occasional Day*<br>➢ *Thursday 2nd December - Walk to post-box (Santa's letters) – parent helpers needed*<br>➢ *Friday 4th December PTA Christmas Fair 3.30 - 6pm*<br>➢ *Friday 4th December - Hanukkah*<br>➢ *Wednesday 16th December - EYFS Christmas Carols - 9am*<br>➢ *Wednesday 17th December - Children's Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day*<br>➢ *Friday 18th December - End of term - 1.15pm*<br>➢ *Children back to school on Monday 4th January* |
|  | **Reception P.E sessions will be on Thursday Morning.**<br>Children will come to school in their PE clothes and wear them for the whole day (royal blue t-shirt which does not need to have a school logo). Please, remember that practising to independently dress is part of their learning process, and we will continue to encourage this in school with coats, jumpers, aprons, footwear. Please also ensure earrings are removed or covered with tape, hair always tied back, and all PE clothes are labelled and appropriate for the weather.<br>This half term the focus will be on dance and Fitness. Dancing and moving to music. moving with confidence.<br>Nursery do not have specific P.E. lessons but will have daily Physical Development in their play, outdoor activities and movement sessions. |
| **Contact us**<br> | Communication is vital to us supporting the school community effectively. Please speak to any of us on the door for a short query or message. For longer conversations, please email at admin@mountpleasant.herts.sch.uk FAO class teacher name. Please be aware that teachers are teaching throughout the day so will be unable to get back to you straight away. **Please, remember to check your emails, class windows and doors for reminders.** |

# Our theme this half term is Celebrations and the Dark and Light

## Phonics

**Reception** children will continue with their daily phonics lesson. They have been remembering their phase 2 sounds, and we have now moved on to our phase 3 sounds. These include lots of digraphs and some trigraphs. They will learn to recognise and read these which will help their skills for blending in reading and segmenting in spelling. We will have a big focus on reading and writing CVC words in short captions and ensuring we have the correct letter formation. Children will be given the sounds and the harder to read and spell words taught so they can practice at home.

**Nursery** children will complete voice sounds and oral blending before moving onto focus on environmental sounds which will help them with their listening and recognition skills. Helping children to be able to listen carefully to identify sounds means that they will find it easier to distinguish sounds in words in the future. This is also a great opportunity for lots of discussion with children, extending their vocabulary.

## Home Learning

Every half term **Reception** will receive a learning grid consisting of six activities to choose over the half term. Alongside weekly new sounds and HRSW.

**Nursery** should continue working on their Independence & self-care, self-regulation & emotions and communication.

## Understanding the World - Celebrations



In this topic we will focus on Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance, Birthdays, and other personal achievements and then finish with several weeks of Christmas fun! We will talk about what our family celebrates as well as personal celebrations. Using personal experiences, books, and information, we will learn about different celebrations and then compare the similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities around the world. For light and dark, we talk about nocturnal animas and day and night.

## Maths

**White Rose Maths** supported by Number Mastery.

- **Reception:** children will consolidate and embed their understanding from last half term and then the children will begin to explore composition by focusing on their preliminary skills: the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts'. What 'equal' means. Before building on the numbers 6, 7 and 8.
- **Nursery** children will continue to build their understanding of numbers and patterns. They will learn to say numbers in order and begin to match amounts to numerals up to 5, recognise what zero means, and use position words such as under, next to, and behind. They will also explore shapes and objects through play and begin to make simple repeating patterns.



## Reading



- **Reception** will continue to receive reading books to embed the new phase 3 sounds they are learning. They will also learn more HRS words that do not follow the normal phonics rules and therefore need to be learnt by sight. Please ensure you read with your child at least 4 times a week and log this on the BoomReader, reading with your child regularly is very important to ensure children become confident readers with good comprehension skills. The reading book needs to be kept in their book bags everyday as children will be listened to throughout the week. They will also take home a library book of their choice.
- **Reception** will take home a library book of their choice and a reading book on Thursday.
- **Nursery** will take home a library book of their choice and a wordless reading book on Thursday.

LITERACY BOOKS: The Gingerbread Man, How to catch a star, Owl babies, Whatever Next, Rama and Sita, The Best Diwali Ever, and The Jolly Christmas Postman with various other books related to our topic and more!