



Autumn Term Newsletter

Sapling and Seedling

We would like to say a big 'welcome' to all our new children joining us here at Long Row.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September and can't wait for the children to have the opportunity to explore, investigate, create and learn; we hope they all have a fantastic first term!

This newsletter is here to explain some of the things we will be learning in school this term and covers all areas of our EYFS curriculum.

If you have any further questions about anything in school, please contact the office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Mrs Jones (Sapling) and Mrs Smurthwaite/Mrs Hunter (Seedling)

Communication and Language:

Our focus for our children this term is to begin our journey to becoming good communicators, including learning to listen carefully in a range of contexts, be confident to speak to new children and adults, and begin to understand a range of questions.

Each week, we will introduce new vocabulary related to what we are learning about as well as recognising interesting words we encounter during our time in and out of school.

PSED:

Our key focus for this term is for all of children to settle into school happily so that we are ready to play, work and learn. We will be working hard on learning our Long Row rules and always being safe -

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful

As part of RE we will be discussing:

'What people are special and why?'

'Which times are special and why?'



Physical Development:

This half term, we are going to be concentrating on getting the children familiar with our outdoor area and how to use the wide range of equipment available to them. We want the children to build their confidence in all their gross motor skills.

Fine motor development will be through 'Funky Finger' activities. This will involve lots of play using our small resources in the provision. These activities include tweezers and buttons, playdough, Lego, threading, peg boards and hammer & nail boards.

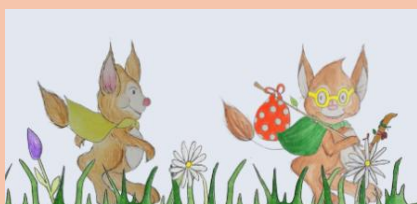


Literacy:

This term we will be reading a range of books. We will be retelling and acting out familiar stories. The children will be introduced to Drawing Club and will have lots of opportunities to mark make and write within our provision.

Later in the term, our texts take a more seasonal theme, with us sharing books about the weather and Autumn.

We will begin daily phonics session using our whole school systematic synthetic phonics scheme, Supersonic Phonic Friends. Click [here](#) for more information.



Maths:

In maths, we will be:

Sorting objects.

Comparing amounts.

Making simple patterns.

Finding longest, shortest, heaviest & lightest within play.

Discovering and understanding numbers 1 – 5.

Spotting and continuing number sequences.

Children in nursery will be focussing on listening for short periods of time and will be exposed to counting and numbers through singing and stories.

Understanding the World:

For our history themed work, we will be learning all about how we have changed over the years, from babies to toddlers and now starting nursery or school.

We will spend time getting to know each other and discuss things that we enjoy and other groups and communities we belong to. We will look at where we live and special people in our lives.

2026 IS BELPER 250, A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

As Belper celebrates 250 years since the first cotton mill opened and 300 years since the birth of Jedediah Strutt, then we will be joining our local community in learning about the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its wonderful history.

As always, we will have plenty of exploration and investigations taking place in our provision as we learn about seasonal changes.

Other Information:

Children in Reception and Nursery DO NOT require water bottles. We provide milk and fresh fruit daily for snack and fresh water is available ALL DAY as part of our snack table provision.

Children in Reception will need a book bag. NO other bag is required – we don't have space in our cloakroom and children then struggle to access their pegs independently.

Please bring book bags to school every day and write your child's name clearly on the outside of their book bag. As requested at our new parent meeting in June, keyrings are not allowed on book bags. They often get broken causing upset, and we have had many accidental injuries when they get tangled and swung around! Also, we aim for children to recognise their name independently - finding their book bag using their names is a fantastic way to achieve this skill!!

Children in Nursery DO NOT need a book bag but can leave a small bag on their peg if they require spare clothes.

Nursery session timings:

8:45-11:45am (morning session – NO lunch)
12:00-3:00pm (afternoon session – NO lunch)
8:45-3:00pm (full day)

Reception school day:

8:45am-3:10pm

Expressive Arts and Design:

In our workshop, we will be exploring how to use the resources available, including different painting techniques, mixing colours and creating paintings, models and collages.

We will be learning to use and extend our imaginations in our construction area, learning new skills in connecting and building using a wide range of kits.

Small world and role play resources will be available in a range of areas for the children to create stories and scenarios and providing all opportunities to build those all-important early relationships with their peers and staff within the setting.

As part of music, we will be following our music scheme. The children will have opportunities to listen to and talk about music. They will learn how to use their voices in different ways and begin to use instruments as a group.

Reading Books:

Your child will bring home a book to share with you from our school library. These will be changed fortnightly. Reception children will bring home their home/school reading diary. Please write a brief comment about how they have read and enjoyed their book or simply sign to say you have read together.

Please sign this each week.

Reception children will also be bringing home their first 'reading' book. This book will be closely linked to the phonics they will be learning in school. We will be encouraging your child to enjoy sharing their books with you at home so they can celebrate how well they are doing in school.

Sharing books with your child is a vital part of your child's early reading skills and will build strong foundations for their future reading journey.

