Owls Class: Medium-Term Plan (Autumn Term 2, 2025–26)

Communication and Language

In Communication and Language, we will continue to develop our listening and attention skills as we enjoy stories and discussions about how people around the world celebrate special times. The children will listen to and recall longer stories, including Autumn-themed tales, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah, Christmas stories, and our core text Oi Frog. We will encourage confident speaking in small and larger groups, share our own experiences of celebrations, and use new vocabulary related to festivals and traditions. Role play, props, and puppets will help bring stories to life and support imaginative talk.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will focus on building confidence, independence, and self-help skills, establishing and following class rules and routines. The children will be encouraged to see themselves as valuable individuals, express their feelings using words such as happy, sad, angry or worried, and begin to understand how others feel. Through discussions about celebrations, the children will learn to solve conflicts, ask for help, and show respect for different traditions. Our school values of Teamwork and Love will be central to our learning as we work together and celebrate each other's achievements.

Physical Development PE lessons

This half term we will begin PE, focusing on moving in different ways, balance, and spatial awareness. Forest School visits will give the children opportunities to run, climb, and explore the natural environment, strengthening gross motor skills. Daily outdoor play and fine motor activities in provision and directed tasks will continue to develop coordination, cutting, drawing, threading, and other small muscle skills. We will also explore how exercise affects our bodies and discuss healthy eating and lifestyle choices.

Literacy

Our core text Oi Frog will help us develop vocabulary, rhyming, and storytelling skills. Children will explore story mapping, sequencing, and oral retelling, as well as writing activities such as lists, letters, CVC words, and captions. We will create our own rhyming strings and a class version of the story. Daily Read Write Inc. sessions and carefully matched reading books will support phonics, blending, segmenting, and early writing. Stories about celebrations will encourage discussion, comprehension, and critical thinking.

How do people around the world celebrate special times?

This is an overview of some of the experiences the children in Reception will enjoy during Autumn 2. They will explore celebrations from around the world, seasonal changes, and special stories, while having plenty of opportunities to follow their own interests, lead their learning, and be creative thinkers.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will explore numbers 1 to 5, learning to subitise, represent, and compose them, and understand concepts such as 1 more and 1 less. We will identify and compare shapes including circles, triangles, and shapes with four sides, combine shapes, and explore position. Mathematics will be brought into play to consolidate learning and develop problem-solving, and we will explore simple concepts linked to daily routines, day and night, and patterns in celebrations around the world.

Understanding the World

Children will explore the natural world during weekly Forest School visits, observing plants, animals, and seasonal changes from Autumn to Winter. They will talk about what they notice, compare environments, and develop curiosity. The children will also learn about special times and celebrations, including Remembrance Day, Hanukkah, and Christmas, exploring the Nativity story and Christian beliefs, while beginning to appreciate similarities and differences between people, places, and traditions.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will develop creativity through art, music, dance, and role play. We will take part in our Christmas Nativity performance, learn seasonal songs and dances, and make festive crafts. Continuous access to painting, musical instruments, chalk, junk modelling, and construction materials will allow children to experiment with colour, texture, and design. Role play and small-world activities will support literacy and storytelling, while music and movement activities will build rhythm, coordination, and expression.