



Nursery at New Hartley First School

Autumn 2

Let's Celebrate!



Welcome back! We hope you've had a lovely half term holiday full of pumpkins and Halloween treats! This half term we are learning about celebrations. We are learning that people celebrate different things and this can depend on where they live, a tradition or a belief, but focusing on which celebrations are important to us.

Dates to remember:

Children in Need – Friday 14th November

WINTER FAIR – In school – Friday 5th December

Nursery Christmas singing/craft – Tuesday 9th December

ARTventurers – Wednesday 17th December

Early Years Christmas party – Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 18th December

End of half term – Friday 19th December

As the weather gets colder -
remember warm winter coats, hats
and gloves. All named!



Our Wish Tree

Christmas crafts
materials

Pinecones

Pompoms

Coloured paper

Paper plates

Junk modelling items such as
cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes
etc. NO MEDICINE or NUT
products please!

The idea of our little wish tree is to let you know at home some of the small items we use a lot of at school and if you could occasionally add them to your shopping list or collect them at home and bring them in we would be very grateful. There is no pressure to donate. Thank you.

Thank you!

Early Years Curriculum

In Nursery the children follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum which is supported by Development Matters. The curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning.

Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal Social and Emotional Development

Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

The prime areas are considered fundamental, as they support and strengthen development in the specific areas.



Thank you for engaging with Tapestry. We will continue to keep in touch on it with little homework tasks and fun things we are up to in the classroom.

Prime Area – Communication and Language

We're continuing to develop our listening skills as we learn new - and some familiar - Christmas songs for our upcoming sing-along. Story time is also growing longer as the children can listen and engage for extended periods.

We'll be exploring new vocabulary related to celebrations, including words such as *celebration, festival, carnival, and Christmas*.

This term, we'll be welcoming a new friend to our class — Bruno, our 'going home bear'! Each week, Bruno will go home with a different child, along with a special book. In this book, you're welcome to add photos, drawings, or a note about what you and Bruno got up to together. There's no pressure on what to include - the main goal is to create a fun talking point for the children. When Bruno returns, we'll take time to share what he's been doing. This will help the children practise speaking clearly and confidently about their experiences, while others work on listening carefully and waiting their turn.

As part of our discussions, we'll also be learning how to ask friends clear, direct questions, and exploring what kinds of questions are appropriate when talking about different celebrations and how people celebrate special occasions.



We continue to use Makaton signs for the days of the week, saying good morning as well as learning topic related signs.

Prime Area – Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our focus this half term is developing our sensitivity towards others — thinking about how we treat people and how they treat us. Linking to our theme of celebrations, we'll also be exploring the idea of differences: Are we all the same? Do we have the same families? Do we celebrate the same things? and discussing why or why not.



We will be developing our confidence in new situations by singing at our Christmas sing-along.

We will continue to build relationships with each other and building upon those friendships we've made to ensure they are positive.

We will be reinforcing and remembering the rules of our classroom and school.

Prime Area – Physical Development

PE Days

PE will continue to be on Wednesday and Friday. Please wear your house-coloured T-shirt with shorts, leggings or joggers, and trainers or sand shoes. No laces, please!



We'll be doing PE with Mrs Gates in the hall on Wednesdays and continuing our sessions with Liam from Active Future on Fridays.

Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor activities remain important. We'll keep practising these daily through activities such as:

- Dough Disco
- Threading
- Peg activities
- Loose/small parts play
- Squiggle Whilst We Wiggle
- Cutting
- Tweezers and pom-poms
- Pencil grip work

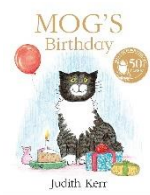
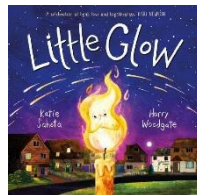
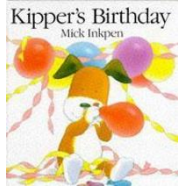
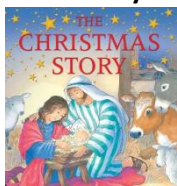
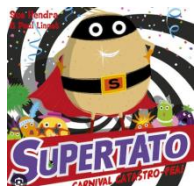
We'll also be introducing *Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle*, which helps to build our gross motor skills too.

Any fine motor activities you can do at home are a great help — thank you for your support!



Specific Area – Literacy In Literacy, our focus this term is on helping children distinguish between print and pictures when exploring stories and books. We'll be encouraging them to recognise that the words on the page carry meaning, while the pictures help to tell and support the story. Children will also be developing their confidence to look through books independently, learning how to handle them carefully and understand that we turn the pages from left to right and read from top to bottom. These early book-handling skills are a key part of building a lifelong love of reading. We'll continue to work on pencil control and grip, helping children hold their pencils correctly so they can begin forming letters and making a start with writing their own names. 	Specific Area – Mathematics In Maths, we are continuing to build and secure our understanding of numbers 0-3 and beginning to extend this knowledge up to 5. Although many of the children are already confident with these numbers, our focus is on deepening their understanding - really exploring what each number means, what it's made up of, how we can represent it, spot it in different contexts, and count it accurately. We'll be practising careful counting, ensuring that each object is counted one at a time, helping the children develop a strong sense of one-to-one correspondence. We'll also be exploring patterns, noticing how colours, shapes, and objects can repeat or change, and encouraging the children to create their own. In addition, we'll be comparing objects and people to talk about size (tall/short, big/small) and using our Mini Me's to practise positional language such as under, next to, in front of, and behind. 	Specific Area – Knowledge and Understanding of the World This half term, we'll be exploring the theme of Celebrations by asking questions such as What do we celebrate? Why do we celebrate? and What is a celebration? We'll learn that people all around the world celebrate different things in different ways. We'll be talking about a range of celebrations - Hanukkah - and thinking about what makes each one special. We'll also explore why Christmas is an important celebration for Christians, helping children begin to understand the meaning behind familiar traditions. Later this half term, we'll be using our senses to explore ice, observing how it looks and feels, and noticing the changes that happen as it melts. This will help the children develop their observation and language skills through hands-on, sensory experiences. 	Specific Area – Expressive Arts and Design Throughout the coming weeks, the children will be taking part in a wide range of creative activities, including making Christmas cards and designing their own calendars. A big focus will be on junk modelling, where they can explore different ideas and use their imagination to transform boxes and recycled materials into exciting creations, such as robots or dinosaurs! We will also be exploring colour and colour mixing, with a particular focus on the primary colours. The aim is for the children to confidently name a variety of colours, including red, blue, yellow, green, white, black, brown, grey, and purple. In Music, the children will have the opportunity to explore a variety of instruments and listen to music from different celebrations, such as Christmas songs and carnival music, helping them develop both their listening skills and appreciation for different styles. 
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Stories focused on in Nursery this half term are



Regular adults in Nursery are:

Miss Elliott, Miss Lamb

Other adults you might see:

Mrs Fielding, Mrs Gates, Mrs Thompson, Miss Wood, Mrs Nelson, Mrs McAthey, Mrs English

Please continue to keep check of Tapestry, lots of exciting and important things are uploaded to there and your engagement is hugely appreciated.



