



Ducklings and Penguins Newsletter - Autumn 2



Welcome back!

A very warm welcome back to all of our families! We hope that you had a restful October half-term and your children are eager to start the new term.

Autumn 2 is a magical time of the year. The colours are changing all around us. We begin the term in Autumn and end it in Winter. As the nights draw in earlier, we think about the seasons changing and how this affects the world around us.

Our theme this half term is 'Then and Now' which covers celebrations from the past and present, as well as toys and traditions, which fits in nicely in the lead up to Christmas.

We begin with the Hindu festival of Diwali. We talk about how different cultures celebrate special events through cooking, dance, art and stories. We will talk about things we played with when we were younger and compare toys from long ago to toys now.

The last few weeks will be all about the Christmas story. We will think about what it is like to wait for something special to arrive, such as seeing family or our birthdays. We will share the story of the Nativity and look at how Christians celebrate at this time of the year.

What a fun and busy term we have planned!



Our Handwriting Scheme

Last term we learned to recognise letters by the sound they make. This term we continue this and also begin to learn how to write the letters too.

We teach letter formation using the 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting scheme. Two monkeys called Brave Monkey and Scared Monkey help us to remember where to start each letter from. We use big whole body movements to help us remember the letter shapes.

We will be sending home more information about the letters as we teach them this term.

In the meantime please visit the Kinetic Letters website if you would like to know more.

<https://kineticletters.co.uk/>



If you have toys from your childhood that you would like to share with us we would love to see them or share photos of them!

Drop Off

To encourage the children to be as independent as possible, please say your goodbyes at the wooden gates so the children can walk in independently.

The teachers will still be opening the wooden gate to signal the start of the day, but will move back to greet children from the door or inside the classroom.

Diary Dates for Autumn Term:

- * Thursday 12th December: Year R Nativity performance 9am
- * Monday 16th December: Pantomime performance for the whole school, in school
- * Friday 20th December: Last day of term
- * Tuesday 6th January: First day of term - all children back to school

This is often a busy term - keep an eye on the weekly newsletters and Seesaw for updates!

Reminders

Warm Clothes

As the weather grows colder, please ensure your child has a named coat in school EVERY DAY. Please make sure any hats and gloves are also named as these get mislaid very easily! We ask that children don't bring umbrellas into school; please can they leave them with you at the gate.

We aim to get outside as much as possible, whatever the weather, so please ensure your child has an adequate supply of named spare clothes in school in case they get wet/muddy from the Winter weather.

PE Days

Our PE days continue to be Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please make sure children wear their PE kits to school on these days. We ask that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed or taped up.

Our library day continues to be on a Thursday. Please ensure children have their library book in school this day as books can only be changed on this day.

Reading folders must be in school every day. Book will be changed on a

Thursday

Thank you