

Autumn term 2026 Information for Parents

Class: Chaffinches

Teacher: Mrs Bratt

Topic Title: The Harvest Festival

A warm welcome to all our children and families. We are delighted to begin a new school year together and are looking forward to a fun-filled and exciting year of learning. This term, our topic is Harvest Festival. The children will be learning about the importance of harvest time, exploring where our food comes from, discovering the crops that are grown in our country, and finding out how harvest is celebrated around the world. Through stories, creative activities, and practical learning experiences, we hope to inspire curiosity and enthusiasm as we explore this fascinating topic together. After half term, our focus will turn to the magic of Christmas, with lots of festive learning and activities planned. We will also begin preparations for our Nativity performance, and further information about this will be shared with you later in the term. We can't wait to see all the wonderful learning and memories that this year will bring!

Please find below details of things we hope to cover this term.

Curriculum Area	We will:
Writing	The children will enjoy a variety of autumn-themed reading and writing activities. Inspired by stories such as Leaf Man and Stick Man, they will write their own adventure stories, create character and setting descriptions, and practise writing labels and captions. We will also explore autumn poetry and write a non-chronological report about autumn animals, including hedgehogs, squirrels, geese, ducks and swans. To finish the term, the children will write an informal letter to Father Christmas.
Maths	Children will build their confidence and fluency in number through sequences of lessons on place value and addition and subtraction. They will develop their understanding of numbers, learn different strategies for calculating, and practise solving a range of mathematical problems. We will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, identifying their properties and using mathematical vocabulary to describe and compare them. Through practical activities and investigations, the children will develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills while enjoying mathematics.
Information Technology (ICT)	Children will learn how to use technology safely and responsibly, including how to keep personal information private and where to go for help if they see something online that worries them. They will explore online safety through discussions and activities, helping them to become confident and sensible users of technology. Children will also develop a range of practical computing skills, including using Microsoft Word, creating digital artwork with drawing tools, exploring music and sound through Chrome Music Lab, and making their own simple films. Through these activities, they will build their confidence in using technology creatively while developing important digital skills.
Science	In Science this term, the children will be learning about living things and their habitats. They will explore the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive. We will investigate a variety of habitats and discover how animals and plants are suited to the places where they live. The children will learn about the basic things that living things need to survive and how plants and animals depend on one another. We will also explore food chains, finding out how animals get their food from plants and other animals, and identifying different sources of food. As young scientists, the children will have opportunities to observe and identify a range of plants and animals, including those found in microhabitats such as under logs, in leaf litter, and beneath stones. Through hands-on investigations and outdoor learning, we will develop our curiosity about the natural world and the living things that share it with us.
Design & Technology (DT)	Children will become designers and engineers as they design, make and evaluate their own wheelbarrow. They will begin by exploring a range of existing products and considering what makes them effective. The children will learn about simple mechanisms, including wheels and axles, and investigate how these help products to work. Using their ideas, they will design a purposeful and appealing wheelbarrow before selecting and using a variety of tools and materials to create their finished product. Throughout the project, the children will evaluate their designs and completed products against a set of design criteria, helping

	them to develop their problem-solving and creative thinking skills. There will also be opportunities for baking and food preparation activities, allowing the children to develop practical skills while exploring healthy foods and following simple recipes.
Art & Design	Children will explore the colours, textures and shapes of autumn through a variety of creative activities. They will use different techniques to create leaf artwork, develop their drawing skills, and experiment with mixing colours to create different shades and tones. The children will also work with clay to sculpt their own autumn leaves and create artwork inspired by Vivaldi's <i>Four Seasons</i> . Throughout the term, they will develop a range of art and design skills by exploring colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. Using a variety of materials and techniques, the children will be encouraged to express their creativity and create artwork they can be proud of.
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)	Children will explore what it means to be part of our caring school community. They will learn about feelings, friendships and relationships, developing an understanding of how to recognise and manage their emotions, show kindness to others, and build positive relationships with their peers. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, the children will learn the importance of being a good friend, respecting others and knowing where to go for support when they need help.
RE	This term, the children will learn about who they are and what makes them unique, exploring their place within their families, school and wider community. They will have opportunities to reflect on what is special about themselves and others, and how we can celebrate our differences. As part of our learning about Christianity, the children will explore why celebrations are important in religions and communities. They will learn about the meaning of Christmas for Christians, discover the story of the Nativity, and reflect on how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Through stories, discussions and creative activities, the children will develop their understanding of this important Christian festival.
Reading	Alongside daily reading of their Little Wandle reading book and regular phonics lessons, the children will enjoy a range of carefully chosen texts that support our learning throughout the term. These include Pumpkin Soup, Little Acorn, Leaf Man, Hello Autumn, The Leaf Thief, Weather Girls and Because of an Acorn. These engaging books will help to develop the children's reading comprehension, vocabulary and love of reading. Our class novel for this term is <i>October, October</i> , which we will enjoy sharing and discussing together. After half term, we will begin reading <i>The Christmasaurus</i> , a festive adventure that is sure to capture the children's imagination and excitement in the lead-up to Christmas.
Music	This term, the children will learn about Vivaldi's <i>Four Seasons</i> and explore how music can represent different seasons, moods and feelings. We will also learn songs linked to Harvest Festival and Christmas, developing confidence in singing together and performing for others. The children will use their voices expressively through songs, chants and rhymes, as well as experimenting with and creating their own sounds and musical patterns. They will have opportunities to play both tuned and untuned instruments, helping them to develop their listening skills, rhythm and understanding of how music is created.
End event	The Harvest Festival – 22 nd October at 2pm
Trip	Pantomime at Rotherham Civic on Thursday 3 rd December
Nativity	Afternoons of the 9 th and 10 th December.

General information

We have PE lessons on Tuesday and Fridays. PE kit should be worn to school on those days. Kit should consist of: white T-shirt, plain black shorts, trainers, black hoodie and black tracksuit bottoms. Please ensure all kit is labelled with the child's name. Hair needs to be tied up and please make sure that no earrings are worn.

Please make sure that all jumpers, cardigans and fleeces are named.

Homework

I expect children to read regularly at home. This, along with making comments in their Reading Record book, forms a very important part of their English homework. Reading record books will be checked every Wednesday. Children should aim for a minimum of three short comments a week in their reading records books, for which a reward will be given. Please don't underestimate the power of listening to a story. Children who regularly hear stories will become more fluent readers. Could your child please bring in their book bag with reading record each day. A book will be given out to your child next week and they will also get a reading spine book to share and enjoy at home.

Spellings will be handed out every Friday and tested the following Friday. These words follow a spelling pattern and should be practised daily at home.

Additionally, children should regularly practise their number bonds facts as these are used daily in school. Every pupil has a Nombots login stuck to their reading record. Please make sure that your child is using this at least three times a week. There is also a Doodle Maths login for children to use at least three times a week as part of their homework.

Please feel free to contact me if you have anything you'd like to discuss. It is best to contact me by email – claire.bratt@nclt.ac.uk and I will aim to respond as quickly as possible.