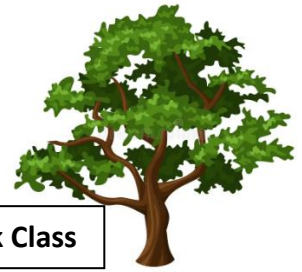
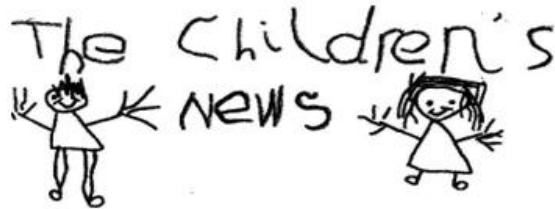


Ash Class



Oak Class

24th October 2025

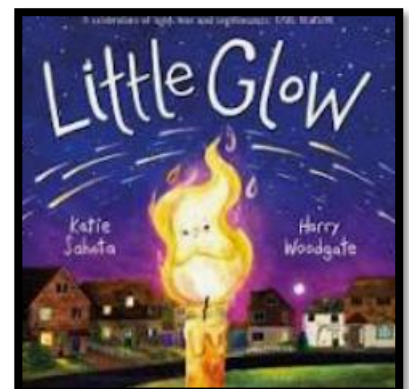
We can't believe that we have got to the end of the first half term already! The time has flown by but we're sure you'll agree that the children are all ready for a break. We wish everyone a restful half term holiday.

The children have been enjoying exploring autumn in school over the last couple of weeks. We have had some beautiful autumn days and have enjoyed getting outside where possible. In Forest School, the children have used autumn leaves, conkers, acorns etc to make their self-portrait. This was a fun activity and really encouraged the children to be creative. They have also been collecting autumn leaves and using them to create caterpillars. They were able to practise their cutting skills in this activity as well as their threading skills and they concentrated very hard! This provided a great opportunity to develop and strengthen the children's fine motor skills.



In our topic lessons last week, we began to talk about some of the festivals that people celebrate in autumn and winter. We read a beautiful book together called Little Glow by Katie Sahota. This has lovely illustrations exploring festivals such as Diwali, Hanuukah, Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Christmas. It really got the children thinking about the festivals they enjoy and are excited about. This week, we will be looking at the festival of Diwali in more detail.

The children are now coming home with reading books with words. These books support our phonics scheme and allow the children to apply their phonics knowledge. Please, please aim to read a minimum of 4x per week. You do not need to read the whole book in one go, just a couple of pages is enough. We do however encourage you to reread the book during the course of the week. This repetition is so important to help children build up their confidence and fluency. Children who read regularly at home tend to retain the phonics sounds and harder to read and spell words more quickly and develop their blending skills more quickly. We aim to hear children read in school in a



variety of ways for example reading a caption together in a phonics lesson, reading words together on signs, displays and in presentations, reading their book. However, it is not possible to hear each child individually in school as often as we would like so reading at home is absolutely crucial. Also, if you or a relative are able to spare any time on a weekly basis to come in and hear readers, please do speak to Mrs Glindon or Mrs Onnadeko who will be able to give you more info.

Each half term the staff at Gothic Mede award a Values ambassador for each class. These are children who consistently live our school values and are seen as role models to the rest of their classes and the school. This week, the first Values Ambassadors of the year will be announced. This term's winners will be announced in the whole school newsletter on Friday.

Phonics

Last week we learnt the sounds; **h, b, f, ff, l, ll** and the harder to read a spell words; **as & his**. This week we have learnt; **j, v, w & x** and the harder to read a spell words; **he, she & buses**.

This link will take you to the section of our website that shows the termly progression for sounds and Harder to Read and Spell Words <https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=189>.

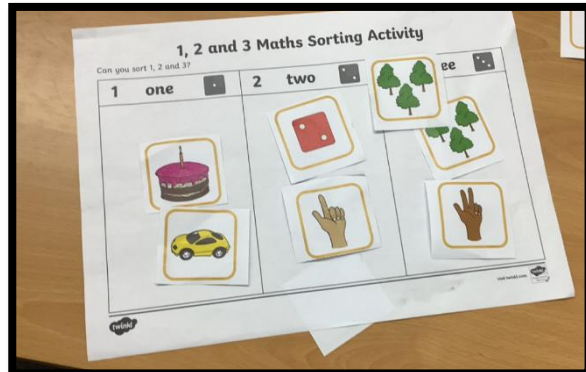
There will be a copy of the Phase 2 sounds in your child's reading diary on Friday for you to practise at home.

We continue to enjoy seeing the ways children are practising at home on Tapestry.

Maths

The children have been learning all about the numbers 1, 2 & 3 over the last couple of weeks. They have worked on recognising the numerals and different representations of the amounts. They have worked on subitising (being able to see and say a small quantity quickly without having to count). We have thought about 1 more and 1 less and investigated the composition of numbers (e.g; 3 is 2 and 1 more or 1 and 1 and 1).

The children have really enjoyed the adult led sessions and have taken this learning forwards into their child initiated play. **Please share any examples of your child doing this on Tapestry.**



Forest School dates

Mon 3rd Nov – Oak
Mon 10th Nov – Ash
Mon 17th Nov – Oak
Mon 24th Nov – Ash
Mon 1st Dec – Oak
Mon 8th Dec- Ash
Mon 15th Dec - TBC

Diary dates

Monday 27th Oct- Friday 31st Oct – Half Term Holiday
Friday 14th Nov – Children in Need day
Tuesday 18th Nov & Thursday 20th Nov – Parent Consultation evenings
(more info to follow)
Thursday 20th Nov – Flu Vaccinations
Monday 8th December 2.00pm – Reception and Acorn A Christmas show
Thursday 11th Dec 2.00pm – Reception and Acorn B Christmas show
(more info to follow later in term)
Wednesday 17th Dec – Christmas lunch and party day. Wear Christmas jumpers to school.
Friday 19th Dec – Christmas Carol service – for pupils only.
Friday 19th Dec – End of Autumn Term

Homework/ Show & Tell;

Reading & Phonics;

Please practise reading (or share a book together) every day and practice recognising the harder to read and spell words listed above. Please write in the reading diary each time you do this. **Making flashcards of the sounds and HRSW and using them daily are a great way to help your child to memorise them.** We enjoy sharing the ways you are working on the HRSW at home too.



Maths task; Thank you to everyone who has shared the Sort, Match and Compare task with us Tapestry. There is still time to do this if you haven't had a chance. The link to the activity on our website;
<https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/page/?title=Homework&pid=121>

Important Reminders:

- We still have several unnamed jumpers in the jumper box each day. Please, please name everything over half term. They are all the same size and colour and it is really difficult to tell which jumper belongs to which child.
- Have a fantastic half term break. Please do share any half term fun you have with us on Tapestry.

