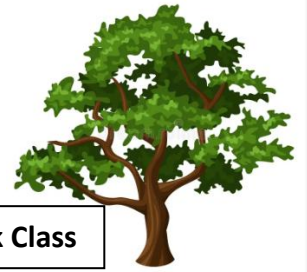
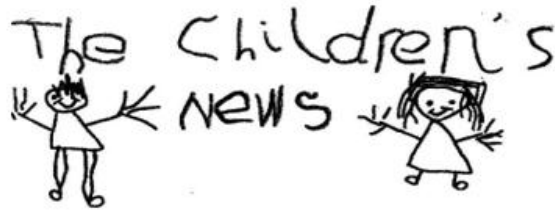


Ash Class



Oak Class

28th November 2025

It feels as though winter has arrived! The cold snap last week gave us the opportunity to talk about how the season is changing from autumn to winter and talk about the changes we are seeing. The children loved finding ice that had formed overnight in the playground. They spent ages observing it, breaking it up and watching it melt as the temperature rose through the day. A great chance for us to visit some of the Knowledge and Understanding of the World statements from the EYFS curriculum.

Please continue to work with your child on doing up coat zips independently. Please do share any successes they have with this on Tapestry. It's also worth practising putting on gloves as many children find this tricky. And just a reminder that all clothes including hats, gloves and scarves must be named. We understand that this can be time consuming however it is the best way to ensure that these items come home. We currently have a large collection of clothing which is not named. Please keep a look out next week as we will put this out during drop off/ pick up one day. Now the weather is much colder, raincoats are not sufficient on forest school days. Please send your child in with a warm waterproof coat. This could be as well as a puddle suit. Please also send them with a named carrier bag to put muddy boots in.

Forest School dates

Mon 1st Dec – Oak

Mon 8th Dec- No Forest School due to Xmas show

Mon 15th Dec – Ash

Holidays

Monday 12th Jan – Oak

Mon 19th Jan – Ash

Mon 26th Jan - Oak

Ash Class thoroughly enjoyed making pitta pizzas and cooking them on the camp fire at Forest School on Monday. The story *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*, was the inspiration for this lovely activity. Each child chose what they would like to put into their pitta and chatted to the adults about why they had chosen it and discussed healthy choices. Mrs Anderson helped each child to cook their pizza on the camp fire and this was a great opportunity to practise all the camp fire safety rules we have learnt over the last few weeks. It was lovely to see the children tucking in and enjoying their cooking so much! Oak Class will cook their pizzas when they attend Forest School on Monday.





Many of the children have enjoyed using the large wooden blocks, planks and guttering to create ramps for the vehicles to roll down. They have collaborated to make increasingly complex constructions, testing out ideas and discovering what works and what doesn't. We have seen some excellent examples of the children displaying the Characteristics of Effective Learning. The information that accompanies this newsletter gives more information on the Characteristics of Effective Learning which are the learning behaviours that we aim to help the children develop to make them independent, self-reflective learners.

A key area that we focus on in Reception is developing the children's fine motor skills. Fine motor skills involve small muscles working with the brain and nervous system to control movements in areas such as the hands, fingers, lips, tongue and eyes. Developing fine motor skills helps children do things like eating, writing, manipulating objects and getting dressed. The clip below demonstrates the different stages of pencil grip development. In order for your child to meet the expected standard by the end of Reception they will need a comfortable tripod grip with enough control to form letters so that they are able to write simple sentences. Please model and encourage your child to use the correct grip whenever they are using pens and pencils at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWAaMk7u8zk>

We are really looking forward to welcoming Mrs Undrell back to Ash Class next week. She will be back from Wednesday 3rd December and will be working in class alongside Mrs Skeggs who will leave us on Friday 12th December. She is really looking forward to getting to know the children and Ash Class families over the coming weeks. Although, it is very exciting to be welcoming Mrs Undrell back, we will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Skeggs on Friday 12th December. She has given Ash Class the very best start to their school life and we will all miss her. I know that she will be keeping in touch to find out how Ash Class are doing.

Phonics

The children are now reviewing the sounds that they have learnt during their phonics lessons this term. The charts below show the sounds that have been taught. Please keep practising these sounds at home, particularly any you notice your child finding more challenging when reading their reading book.

s	a	t	p
i	n	m	d
g	o	c	k
ck	e	u	r
ss	h	b	f
l	ff	ll	

j	v	w	x	y		
z	zz	qu	ch	sh		
th	ng	nk	ai	ee	igh	oa

Maths

During our maths fluency lessons this week we have begun to explore the composition of numbers. Our focus has been on the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts'. The children have been investigating their body and familiar toys to develop their understanding that whole things are often made up of smaller parts and that a whole is, therefore, bigger than its parts. We have also been learning about shapes with 4 sides.

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. **If your child has read the book we encourage you to reread it with them several times to develop fluency.**

Maths task; NEW TASK – please see the document accompanying this newsletter for the Maths homework task for this half term.

Diary dates

Monday 8th December 2.00pm – Reception and Acorn A Christmas show (in the school hall)

Thursday 11th Dec 2.00pm – Reception and Acorn B Christmas show (in the school hall)

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

Tuesday 6th January – Term begins

Thursday 15th January 5.30pm – Nursery Bedtime story. For all children below school age whether they attend GMA or not. Do sign up and bring your little ones along (older siblings are welcome to attend too)

Friday 23rd January 9-10am – Mastering Maths Parents Workshop (more info to follow)

Important Reminders:

- We are running very low on boxes for junk modelling please do send in any small boxes/ packaging. Unfortunately, we can't accept any packaging that has contained a nut product.
- Our dolls clothes and bedding has been very well loved and is beginning to look a little worse for wear. If you are having a clear out and can let us have any clothes, bedding, dolls accessories etc they would be very gratefully received.
- We are always happy to receive donations of craft bits and pieces. If you have any coloured paper, envelopes, feathers, pom poms, stickers, beads (anything really), they will be put to good use in the craft corner. Thank you