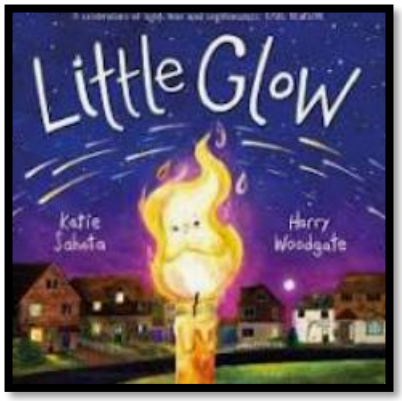
Ash Class

The Children's News

Oak Class

2nd November 2026

Well last term seemed to fly past, we can't quite believe that the children have already done a full half term. The children have impressed us so much with how well they have adapted to full time school life and how well they cope with the routines and expectations of school. They were all ready for a little break and we hope you have all enjoyed the half term holiday. We are looking forward to hearing all about the autumn and Halloween adventures the children have had. Please do share anything on Tapestry that the children would like to share as show and tell. If you put 'Show and Tell' in the title, that helps to flag it to us.



In our topic lessons just before half term, 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 thinking about Bonfire Night in more detail.

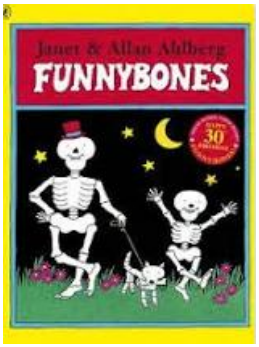
The children are now coming home with reading books with words. These books support our phonics scheme and allow the children to apply their phonics knowledge. Please, please aim to read a minimum of 4x per week. You do not need to read the whole book in one go, just a couple of pages is enough. We do 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. On the Friday before half term, the first Values Ambassadors of the year were announced. Last half term's winners were Maisie and Gracie. Well done.

Drawing Club

You may have heard your child talking about doing 'Drawing Club' at school. We have recently introduced Drawing Club in Reception, a fun and creative approach that encourages children to develop their drawing and writing skills. Taking place 2–3 times a week, every child has the opportunity to take part. Through exciting stories, characters and imaginative ideas, children are encouraged to draw, talk about their creations and add details to bring them to life.

Just before half term, we enjoyed exploring the book Funnybones. The children loved drawing their own skeletons and imagining the exciting adventures they could go on – there was definitely a Halloween feel! This week, we will be using The Little Red Hen as our inspiration, providing lots of opportunities for imaginative drawings and discussions. In topic time, we will think about farming and harvesting wheat and turning it into flour. The children will have the opportunity to make their own bread rolls too and observe the changes the ingredients undergo during the bread making process.



Drawing Club helps to develop children's vocabulary, imagination and fine motor skills, while building their confidence and enthusiasm for writing. As the term progresses, we will be encouraging children to write words and simple captions to accompany their drawings, helping them to take their first steps towards independent writing.

Phonics

This week, we will learn the sounds; **h, b, f, ff, l, ll** and the harder to read a spell words; **as** & **his.** Next week, we will learn**; 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.**

SAVE THE DATE

On Friday 20th November we will be holding a Reception Maths Workshop. This will take place in the hall from 9.00-10.00; refreshments will be available from 8.40. Your child will join you in the hall after the first 10 minutes of the session where you will sit with your child and engage in some maths games together. More information, including a link to confirm your attendance and a personal invitation from your child, will be sent out after half term.

Learning with an autumn theme;







Forest School dates

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

Diary dates

Tuesday 17th Nov & Thursday 19th Nov – Parent Consultation evenings (more info to follow)
Wednesday 18th Nov – Flu Vaccinations
Friday 20th Nov – Reception Maths Workshop
Weds 25th Nov – Supporting Your Child with Reading Parents session
Tuesday 1st December – Whole school trip to Pantomime
Weds 10th Dec- Whole school Christmas dinner
Friday 18th Dec -End of term
Tuesday 5th January – Children return to school

Homework/ Show & Tell;

Please practise reading (or share a book together) **every day** and practice recognising the harder to read and spell words listed above.

Maths task;
Please complete some of the tasks from the **Matching and Sorting** sheet that accompanies this newsletter.
Please share any activities that you do on Tapestry.



Important Reminders:

- Please send your child in with warm layers and a waterproof coat as we try to get outside whatever the weather.
- From next week, Monday PE will be outdoor games so please dress your child in warm layers.
- Please send your child with a named carrier bag on Forest School days for us to put all the muddy items into when we get back in to school.
- Please can you check that all items are named and names haven't washed off? We still have unnamed jumpers in our jumper box each day. Please name all forest school items as well.