

# Year R Curriculum Highlights 2024-25



We have had such a wonderful year and wanted to take the opportunity to look back on our Early Years curriculum and the experiences that it has provided. Please enjoy glimpsing over some of the Highlights of your child's first year at school.

## Autumn 1- Knowing Me, Knowing you

During the first half term at school we took lots of time to settle into the routines and expectations of being at school full time. Our main focus was on the PSED element of our curriculum. We made new friendships, got to know new adults and learnt how to manage our own belongings throughout the day. There was lots of new things to learn about being independent but we were amazing and got used to being at school doing new things.



## Autumn 2-Awesome Autumn

Awesome autumn was one of our favourite topics. We concentrated on the Understanding the World strand of the curriculum, making observations of the world around us as the season changed from summer to autumn. Lots of our key texts supported our learning and we had a superb opportunity to recreate 'The Scarecrow's wedding'. We absolutely loved Pumpkin day and had the first experience of visiting church for our Harvest Festival and performing the 'Big Red Combine Harvester song' and the celebration of 'Diwali' enjoyed by many different Faiths. Of course we cannot forget how fabulous Christmas was in school, our Nativity play and the wonderful performance our children gave. We loved Autumn 2!



### Spring 1-Monster Mayhem and legs, legs, legs

After a well-earned rest the children bounced back into school ready to learn. They were met by a strange picture found on the school CCTV of a Monster causing Mayhem in our classrooms. This half term we focussed on the use of descriptive language and the words that we could use to talk about each of the monsters that we created in our imagination. This led us on to creating Gruffalo crumble and learning how to use watercolour paints to produce pictures of the Gruffalo. We made monster traps in the outside area, Monster perfume to make monsters smell better in the sensory area and talked about a monster's favourite food. Finally Nick came to visit us with his amazing collection of bugs to explore. It was a busy half term!



### Spring 2-Down on the Farm

As the season changed yet again we began to compare how the world around us was beginning to burst with signs of new life. We had some extremely exciting visitors who hatched on the third day at school. We loved taking care of our ducklings. They made us giggle, were very messy and absolutely loved playing in the water on the tough spot. We also watched in awe as our frog spawn turned from eggs to tiny wriggling tadpoles. The bulbs in our garden burst into colour and we began to hunt for bugs. All this new life was a perfect time to learn about the Christian Celebration of Easter and what the symbol of eggs means during this time. At the end of the half term we went on a day trip to 'Longdown activity farm' where we had the most amazing time learning about the animals that they look after.



### Summer 1-Tell me a story

As the weather turned yet again we found ourselves enjoying warmer climes and comparing the environment we live in yet again. We enjoyed a 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' and the children found themselves coming into school and finding themselves face to face with a crime scene! Who had spilt porridge and knocked over the furniture in our classroom? We loved writing crime reports and learning the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Learning about traditional stories was the real

focus of our half term, we retold and re-enacted stories that we knew well and even began to create our own versions such as 'Mrs Gray and the three little dinosaurs'.



### **Summer 2-We're all going on a Summer Holiday**

The final half term of the year began to prepare us for the changes that were held in store. We talked about the world that we live in, our local environment, making maps and our favourite forms of transport. We looked at environments across the world that are so very different from where we live such as the polar-regions and the jungle. We began to be eco-warriors discussing how to stop pollution in our seas and to take care of the world that is so very precious. In the last weeks of school we began to talk about how life at school would be changing, meeting new people and new expectations. Most of all we have enjoyed looking back at what we have learnt, how amazing we are as learners and how we can now solve our problems independently! What a superb round up to a superb year!

