EYFS Autumn 2 - 2026
Kings, Queens and Castles



Communication and Language

Role-play: Castle and Santa's grotto

We will develop vocabulary about kings, queens, castles and celebrations through stories and role-play. Nursery children will practise following two-part instructions, answering "why" questions, using longer sentences and retelling familiar stories. We will also practise speaking in full sentences, listening to others and sharing our ideas confidently during group discussions, role-play and everyday activities.

Understanding the World

History – Kings, Queens and Castles (and festivals)

We will find out who the King of England is, build and name parts of castles, learn about Elizabeth I and explore how monarchs and castles have changed.

We will learn about festivals and traditions in our culture and other cultures, including Bonfire Night, Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah. We will learn about their historical importance and how they have changed over time.

Science- Identifying animals

We will be learning to identify and describe a variety of animals, including pets, mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. We will also sort animals into groups and collect, present and interpret data about pets and minibeasts.

RE – Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas? We will explore the Christmas story and discover why it is important to Christians. We will learn about the characters in the Nativity and begin to understand the Christian belief that Jesus was both God and human. We will explore how Christians celebrate Christmas and perform in our class nativity.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to develop friendships, confidence, independence and cooperation. Through shared play, children will practise taking turns, listening to others, solving problems and persevering when things are tricky. We will be learning to recognise and name different feelings and emotions, talk about how we and others might be feeling, and begin to understand what causes these feelings.

Maths

Reception

This half term reception will be consolidating and securing their understanding of numbers to 4 including subitising (seeing an amount without counting), counting skills, composition and comparison

Nursery

For the first part of this half term nursery will focusing on counting and subitising 1 and 2. They will then focus on patterns - recognising patterns, continuing patterns and making their own patterns.

Expressive arts and Design

Through focused and independent activities each week, the children will mix colours and print firework pictures, build ice castles and other imaginative small worlds, make Diwali rangoli patterns with loose parts, and design crowns with different textures. Children will create and act out castle stories, make salt-dough decorations and sing Christmas songs with dance and instruments.

DT – In DT this term, reception children will be investigating structures and making a chair for a bear.

Music - **Singing:** We will be learning to sing songs from memory, use our voices to explore high and low pitches, and sing lyrics clearly and accurately. We will practise controlling our breathing, adding actions to songs and working together as a group. We will also perform our class nativity and own musical compositions.

Physical Development

PE – Gymnastics: Animals. We will practise safe travelling, stretching, jumping, rolling and balancing, linking actions into short sequences.

Fine-motor activities - painting with brushes and forks, cutting, threading, crown making and dough work.

Gross motor activities -exploring how we can move in different ways, including firework dances, frozen poses, scarf movements.

Children will also be practising pre-writing movements with 'squiggle while you wiggle' and practising managing their coats independently.

Literacy

Focus books for Autumn 2



We will use these books for our main literacy teaching this half term alongside other high-quality texts about castles and Christmas.

We will be focusing on patterns in stories, retelling stories and using our own ideas to change them.

We will use these texts to support development of drawing and early writing. Reception will continue Little Wandle phonics and letter formation practice. Nursery will continue their Foundations of Phonics lessons to develop their phonological awareness through games and nursery rhymes.