

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Hornbeams

Autumn 2026



Our Themes:

“All about me” and “Once upon a time...”

Our Values:

Caring, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation, Independence
Respect and Happiness



We hope that you have had a lovely summer and are ready for the first of our exciting terms this year. The children are already settling in very well in their new class and are eager to learn and explore. Here we shall give you an overview of some of the topics we plan to cover this term, and as new ones arise this will be reflected in the weekly sheet in your child's homework book.

Our Theme:

We will begin this term by settling the children into our school routines. As we get to know the children and understand their interests and likes, we will plan lots of exciting, engaging experiences and learning opportunities for them. We believe that children learn best when they take charge of their own learning. Our class themes this term are All About Me for the first term and then Once Upon a Time. The children will do lots of fun and creative activities linked to them and what they enjoy. There will also be specific themes for the Reception children throughout the term, including Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas!

Personal Social and Emotional Development

In this area, we will mainly focus on settling the children into our school routines, for example, putting away belongings in a morning, milk and fruit time, playtime and lunchtime and getting ready for home time. The children will know how to show our school value of respect by looking after what we have at school and home and will also know how to get more and more independent with the activities that they join in with. We will be supporting children to develop positive relationships with both adults and other children. We shall encourage children to play and work alongside one another to build these friendships.

We have devised a set of rules together for our class which shall be followed alongside our school rules and values. Children will receive the many rewards available to them for following these well, such as house points, house point treats, merits, golden coins and the emerald jumper. Children will then have the knowledge to be able to increasingly follow rules, the understanding why they are important and also the ability to remember the rules without needing an adult to remind them.

Physical Development

We will be teaching the children to use our outdoor equipment in a variety of ways to keep them active and healthy. Children will access outdoor provision throughout the year in all weather conditions. We have all-weather suits so that the children can explore the outdoor classroom, the rest of the school and the wider environment even in poor weather (you are welcome to send in a named pair of Wellington boots to keep in school for this purpose). Various opportunities for large and small-scale physical development shall be provided both inside and outside.

Children will receive weekly PE sessions with Hawthorns where they will enjoy a range of exciting lessons which we will endeavour to link to our topic. The first term's lessons with Mr Toothill will be swimming lessons every other week. The children will develop their confidence in the water during this time. They will learn how to get themselves changed successfully too.

During your child's PE lesson, they will learn how to move in different ways and improve their balancing skills. The children will also develop their listening and attention skills and their ability to work together as a team. The children will know the importance of keeping fit and healthy with exercise and they will also know what we can eat to have a balanced diet.

Communication and Language

This term we will be modelling good speaking and listening skills, especially during carpet time. The children will be taught when it is appropriate to speak and when to listen. We want the children to be confident in expressing their ideas freely in whole class situations.

Children will develop their communication skills in a range of situations including class discussions, role play and group games and activities.

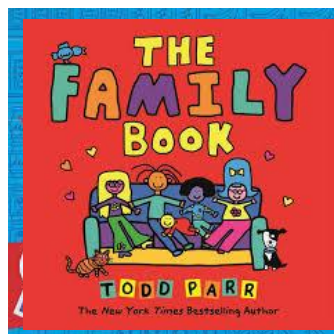
The skills that the children will develop will be the ability to listen to longer stories and remember lots of what happens and also the ability to pay attention to more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult. They will know how to show respect to the grown ups and their peers whilst they are talking and will know how to express their own opinions and ideas successfully.

Literacy

We will be reading a range of stories in class, asking children to identify characters and main events in order to be able to retell the story. We would like to use stories as a stimulus for all areas of learning and develop a love of reading in the children. You will find a book in your child's reading bag to enjoy at home. These will be picture books to begin with to allow children to tell stories from pictures. Please comment in the reading record to let us know how their reading is developing at home. Children will also take part in Reading practice sessions every morning with a teacher, focusing on different areas such as vocabulary and comprehension.

We will have a phonics session every day in which children will begin to learn their letters and sounds. Phonics is very important in children's early reading and writing development as it lays the foundations for children to build upon and develop their independence. We will send home the new phonemes taught so they can be reinforced at home also. Please practise these with your child as often as you can and this will significantly help your child to learn to read and spell. Children will begin to know how to read and write CVC words and then use what they have learnt within their choosing time.

Here are some of our theme books for the first half term



Mathematics

We will be mainly focusing on the children's counting skills in a variety of contexts, for example, counting songs, counting children at school and counting out items throughout the day etc. The skills the children will be able to develop will be the ability to recognise written numbers and match these to quantities. Maths activities will be in a variety of learning experiences where the children can learn creatively. Children will then be able to know how to count objects in their playtime, hand out the correct number of apples at snack time and many more opportunities where they can use their maths knowledge.

Understanding Of The World

Whilst looking at our EYFS weekly themes, we will be modelling how to ask questions to find out information. They will then know how to ask a question correctly and will be inquisitive to find out more. We shall be developing our skills in ICT using simple computer programmes and other programmable toys and equipment. We will have the iPads available most days to develop their computing skills independently. Children will also enjoy basic Science exploration activities. Children will then know how to use a computer programme on a computer.

Expressive Arts And Design

The children will access a range of creative activities on a daily basis including art and design provision, music equipment and different role play scenarios. We will encourage children to use their imagination in their learning and to be confident enough to develop their own ideas. We will also have regular art lessons throughout the term focusing on a particular artist. The children will know all about the artist, the work they produce and then have the skills in order to practice creating their own artwork in the style of that particular artist.

Important Information

As per the school homework policy which is available at www.nettleton.lincs.sch.uk homework will be set on a **Friday** and returned on a **Thursday**, homework we set will be fun and creative for you to enjoy with your child at home. Please add a comment in your child's homework book to let me know how they got on with it. If there are any issues with the homework, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

For the first half of the Autumn term we will be swimming. Our swimming days are on alternate **Tuesdays**, starting on September 22nd. Swimming lessons will be taught by Mr Toothill. The children can come in their PE uniform but will also need to bring a towel and a costume which are named. On a **Tuesday (when not swimming) and Wednesday** their PE lesson will be with Hawthorns. If your child's ears are pierced, please ensure earrings are removed on PE days. Please consult the school's uniform policy for the correct PE uniform.

In our classroom we have an 'interest board.' We use this to plan activities which will interest the children. Please encourage your child to add to this regularly. Children could bring in photographs, pictures from catalogues, their own drawings, a written explanation etc. to reflect their interests. I look forward to receiving these and sticking them up on the board.

We are continually assessing the children by observing them in their play. These notes and photographs build up in their profile as a record of their "Wow Moments". We will record these wow moments through the Tapestry app. Please add to your child's Tapestry profile with any information about any achievements you have seen your child make independently at home, this could be in the form of a photograph, a note, a piece of independent work, a certificate, medal or trophy etc. This will help build up a bigger picture of your child and maintain that wonderful communication between home and school.

Children will have their own reading books changed once a week. Please read with your child 4 times a week and record this in your child's diary. **Rewards will be given for regular reading and diaries will be checked weekly to ensure that children are reading at home.** *Please understand that the children's reading stage will be changed when they have demonstrated over a period of time that they have improved their fluency and comprehension on that stage. There are a number of varied books for each reading stage and it is important that the children read a breadth of different genres.*

Children need a named water bottle in school every day as we are unable to provide cups for them to use. We are a WATER ONLY school. Bottles containing anything other than juice will be replaced with water.

Please also send a bag containing a change of clothes/underwear for your child to keep on their peg at all times in case of an accident that requires changing.

As the weather turns colder and wetter this term, children will need to have a warm and waterproof coat (named hats, gloves and scarves etc.) as we take the children outside for lessons as well as playtimes whatever the weather! Wellington boots and a spare set of socks that can stay in school would be desirable if at all possible. Coats should also be in school at all times, just in case the weather turns.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mrs Watson and Mrs Priestley