Welcome to Nursery Autumn 2 Newsletter 2026

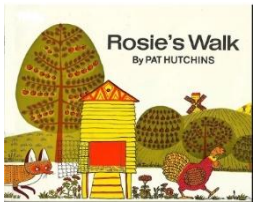
We have had a really successful first half term and we hope your child has enjoyed themselves as much as we have. We are looking forward to working together to support your child's learning journey. This half term our topics are 'Autumn, Healthy Lifestyles, Hide and Seek, Pets, Space, Kindness, and Christmas'. Here is some information about the skills and knowledge your child will be learning linked to these topics.

We are very excited to start our Little Wandle Phonics Scheme called Foundations for Phonics. We will teach the children a new sound/phoneme each week. We can't wait to begin our Numbers and Patterns sessions where we teach the children to recite numbers past 5, to recognise numerals, talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes, to use mathematical language, to extend and create patterns.

Our Curriculum – Here you will be able to find out the details about what your child will be learning week by week. We have included the books and songs we will focus on. If you have any questions, please ask.

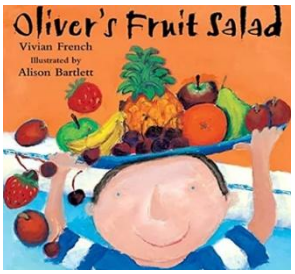
Week 1 Autumn

- ☺ Reading – Rosie's walk
- ☺ Going on an Autumn walk around the school
- ☺ Collecting leaves
- ☺ Noticing changes in our environment
- ☺ Phonics - words beginning with a – ant, astronaut, arrow, apple
- ☺ To count to 1 and recognise the numeral 1
- ☺ Song of the week – Jack and Jill

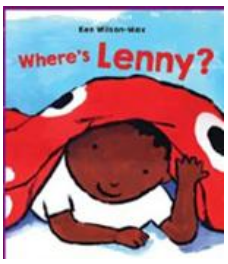


Week Healthy Lifestyles

- ☺ Reading - Oliver's Fruit Salad
- ☺ Discussion – Our favourite food
- ☺ Drawing our favourite food
- ☺ Making a fruit salad
- ☺ Phonics – words beginning with s – snake, sock, sun, star
- ☺ To begin to represent Numbers using fingers
- ☺ Song of the week – Pease Pudding Hot

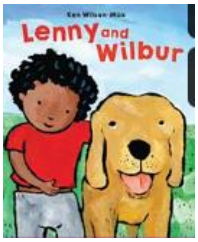


Week 3 Hide and Seek



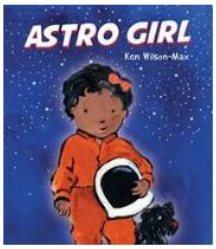
- ☺ Reading – Where's Lenny?
- ☺ Blob painting
- ☺ Making a jam sandwich
- ☺ Making slime
- ☺ Hide and seek in the garden
- ☺ Phonics - words beginning with t – tiger, teddy, toast, teeth
- ☺ To identify the 2D shape circle
- ☺ Song of the week – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive

Week 4 Pets



- ☺ Reading – Lenny and Wilbur
- ☺ Discussion – Do you have a pet?
- ☺ Taking care of pets
- ☺ Phonics – words beginning with p – pencil, peg, pizza, pan
- ☺ To count to 2 and recognise the numeral 2
- ☺ Song of the week – Five little ducks went swimming one day

Week 5 Space



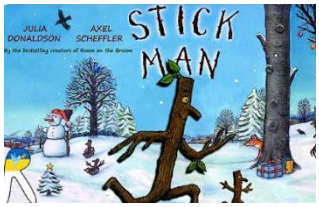
- ☺ Reading – Astro Girl
- ☺ Discussion - Where is space?
- ☺ Making rocket pictures and models
- ☺ Phonics - words beginning with i – iguana, igloo, insect, invitation
- ☺ To find the odd one out
- ☺ Song of the week – I'm a Little Rocket

Week 6 Kindness

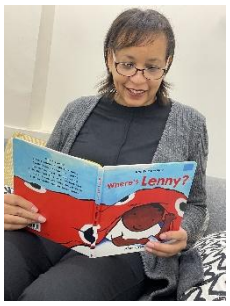


- ☺ Reading – The Big book of kindness
- ☺ Discussion – Kind hands, kind feet, kind words
- ☺ Drawing a picture of our friends
- ☺ Phonics - words beginning with n – nest, nurse, nose, net
- ☺ To identify the 2D shape triangle
- ☺ Song of the week – Tommy Thumb

Week 7 Christmas



- ☺ Reading – Christmas Stories
- ☺ Phonics – recap the sounds s,a,t,p,i,n
- ☺ Christmas songs
- ☺ Christmas lunch
- ☺ Christmas parties
- ☺ Song of the week – Various Christmas songs



Book Review this half term

Miss Williams recommends – Where's Lenny by Ken Wilson-Max

Lenny and Daddy enjoy playing hide and seek. Lenny hides and Daddy follows the clues and searches the house for Lenny. Daddy asks Mummy for help and they find Lenny under the blanket, resulting in plenty of tickles, hugs and laughter. The repetition of the phrase "Where's Lenny?" on each page encourages the children to join in with the words. What a wonderful book! I love the illustrations and look forward to the activities I have planned linked to this book.



Mrs Benham-Smith recommends – Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max

Astrid has loved the stars and space for as long as she can remember. "I want to be an astronaut!" she says to everyone who will listen. While her mama is away, Astrid and her papa have fun acting out the challenges an astronaut faces on a space mission — like being in zero gravity ("I can do that all day long!" she says), eating food from a *kind of* tube, and doing science experiments with the help of cookie sheets. When at last it's time to meet Mama at the air base, Astrid wears her favourite space T-shirt to greet her. But where exactly has Mama been? Ken Wilson-Max brings space travel up close for young readers and offers an inspiring ending.

Attendance in Nursery

We know it is not statutory in the Early Years and Childcare sector but there are so many good reasons why attendance is so important. Regular attendance in Nursery builds the vital social, emotional, and foundational learning habits children need for lifelong educational success.



Family Friday

We are inviting parents into school on Friday 6th November between 8.40 and 9am to see what your child's day is like in our Nursery environment. This is an opportunity for you to play with your child and see the different activities we have planned for them. We look forward to seeing you.

Parents Consultation Evening

Our (**in person**) parents' evenings are on Tuesday 17th November and Wednesday 18th November. This will give you the chance to meet with your child's key worker and have an informal discussion about how your child has settled into Nursery and their next steps in their learning. A letter with the appointment times and how to book will be sent out soon.



Nursery Christmas Songs

We are delighted to welcome you to our Nursery Christmas songs which takes place on Tuesday 1st December at 9am and 2pm.



Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and Party morning or afternoon

On Tuesday 15th December it will be our Christmas lunch (for the all-day children) and Party Day for everyone. The children can wear a Christmas jumper if they wish. As part of these celebrations, we might have a special visitor who wears a red suit and has a white beard.

Winter Clothing

As the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child has a winter coat and hats/gloves in school as we spend long periods of time in the outdoor area regardless of the weather. Remember also to label your child's belongings.

Spare Clothes

Our items of spare clothing have dwindled to nothing this term. If your child has borrowed some of our spares, please could we ask that you return them once they have been washed. In addition, if you have any spare clothes at home that you would be happy to donate, we could make good use of them – thank you.

Lunch Boxes

We encourage all children to bring a healthy packed lunch to school with a good portion of fresh fruit. We ask parents to use due discretion when packing lunches to ensure children have a balanced and healthy lunch. Priory Rise School is a nut free site due to the serious nature of allergies. Due to children having nut allergies we ask that parents do not use peanut butter/Nutella in their children's sandwiches or include cereal bars

containing nuts in their child's lunch box. As you will appreciate, even a small trace of peanut can cause a severe reaction in some children. We would like to thank you all for understanding with this.

Tapestry Learning Journal

We hope you are all managing to access your child's Tapestry Learning Journal, there is already so much in it. We will check in with you at your Parent's Consultaion appointment to see how you are getting on with this. Thank you to everyone who has uploaded something from home too, it's wonderful to see. Just a friendly reminder that Tapestry is for positive learning comments. If there are any issues for discussion please see your child's key worker at drop off/pick up or email us on nursery@pr5d.com Please note that when we are teaching the email address may not be checked until the end of the day. If you have a matter that needs addressing before the end of the day it would be best to contact us through the office.

Starting Primary School in September 2027

Just a reminder that you will need to apply online for your child's school place for September 2027. Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 need to apply by 15th January 2027. You can get all the information in this link below.https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september

Routines

- ☺ Music and Movement is in the small hall on Wednesdays.
- ☺ We will visit the library for a regular session every week on a Thursday. Your child will be able to borrow a book, bring it home and return it the following week on Thursday. Non return of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it.
- ☺ Miss Williams takes her PPA (out of class teacher time for planning, preparation and assessment) on Thursday morning and will be covered by Miss Smith.

End of the session:

- ☺ We are kindly asking parents to wait outside the Nursery door when collecting your child so we can ensure your child goes to the correct parent/carer.

Staffing

- ☺ Miss Williams: Class Teacher – Spiders Key Worker
- ☺ Mrs Satheesh: Nursery Nurse – Caterpillars Key Worker
- ☺ Miss Tandy: Nursery Nurse – AM Ladybirds Key Worker
- ☺ Mrs Baba: Nursery Nurse – PM Ladybirds Key Worker
- ☺ Miss Smith: Higher Level Teaching Assistant