



WELFORD-ON-AVON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURSERY NEWS

21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the children have begun exploring Diwali, the 'Festival of Light'. They have loved discovering how Diwali is celebrated around the world – from lasting five days, cleaning homes, buying new clothes and utensils, to enjoying fireworks, sweets, and delicious food!

We talked about the significance of the diva lamp and why Diwali is known as the Festival of Light. The children even helped make our classroom sparkle by using dusters to prepare for Diwali!

Our home corner and Understanding the World area have been transformed into a Diwali-themed space, filled with traditional artefacts such as clothing, jewellery, cooking utensils, tea-light candles, dolls, books, and pictures. This hands-on approach allows children to 'play' what they have learned, making learning meaningful and helping them 'know more and remember more'.

In the creative area, we combined maths and Diwali by creating repeating patterns using traditional wooden printing blocks. The children were able to apply their knowledge of patterns in a creative way while linking beautifully with Diwali traditions.

The children have also created their own diva lamps, decorating them with colourful jewels – they look amazing, along with their printed fabric and are displayed within the classroom for all to see!



Next week, we will continue building on this introduction with more exciting activities.

Exploring Patterns




We have also been learning to recognise mistakes in a repeating pattern and then fix them. This can be quite challenging until children develop a deeper understanding of patterns, but they are becoming more confident now and are starting to 'read the pattern' more consistently. This helps them to identify the mistake and then fix it!



Phonics Focus: Introducing the Letter 't'

In our daily phonics we have continued to learn about letters and their associated sounds. We have revisited previous sounds 's' and 'a' before introducing this week's sound, 'p'.

We have begun to tune into the initial sounds of words, beginning with 's' and 'a' and matching them with the corresponding letter shape.

Grapheme and mnemonic		Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase	Multisensory action
	t	Open your lips; put the tip of your tongue behind your teeth and press t t t	From the tiger's nose to its tail, then follow the stripe across the tiger.	Make a claw with one hand and motion scratching
	a	Open your mouth wide and make the 'a' sound at the back of your mouth a a a	Around the astronaut's helmet, and down into space.	Use two hands to put on a helmet
	s	Show your teeth and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.	Motion the hand to look like a snake moving

Shared Reading Book

This week, your child will have brought home their first sharing book, along with information about how to enjoy it together and when to return it. Books are valuable tools for learning, and sharing them every day helps develop a love of reading while supporting language and early literacy skills. Please take time to look at the book together, talk about the pictures, and share the story. These moments make a big difference in your child's learning journey!

Christmas Play – Important Information

All of the children have now been given a role in our Christmas play, and letters will be sent home in your child's bookbag on Monday with full details.

Children who have a speaking part should practice at home, focusing on speaking in a loud, clear voice.

- **Dress Rehearsal:** Thursday 11th December – We will perform to the school. This is a lovely opportunity for siblings to watch and helps prepare the children for the main performance. If your child does not normally attend Nursery on a Thursday, they will need to come in at 10:00am and be collected at 11:30am. Please ensure they are in full school uniform.
- **Main Performance:** Friday 12th December at 9.15am – All children need to arrive promptly by 8:45am so we have time to get everyone ready in costume. Children should wear full school uniform. Children who do not usually attend on a Friday can go home after the performance.

British Values

As part of our British Values, this term we are supporting children to develop good self-help skills and table manners within the setting.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to:

- Become more independent with taking off and putting on their shoes and coat.
- Sit at the table together and use a knife and fork correctly.
- Practice basic table manners to support everyday social interactions.

Illness Guidelines

It is important that we all follow the correct guidelines for illness:

- If your child has a temperature they should not be in school.
- If your child has needed Calpol or similar during the night or before school, they are not fit to attend.
- If your child is ill, telephone the school office between 9.00am and 9.15am, giving a brief message about why they will not be attending.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must not return until 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs M Sims
Nursery Class Teacher

"I am not a teacher, but an awakener."
— Robert Frost