



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** for your very generous donations to our Harvest collection. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated, and it has been a wonderful way to show the children the importance of giving and thinking of others.

This week, we've been learning all about Harvest—a special time to celebrate the food grown on the land, be thankful for what we have, and think about those who may not have as much. The children have enjoyed exploring how food grows, what it needs to thrive, and how it is harvested, both now and in the past. These conversations have introduced lots of new vocabulary that we will continue to build on in the coming weeks.

Our story focus has been *The Little Red Hen*, which ties in beautifully with our Harvest theme. The children have begun to join in with the repeated phrases and thinking about how the story might have ended differently if the hen's friends had helped her. Next week, we'll be acting out the story using props.



Phonics

In phonics we have continued to listen to and distinguish between sounds in the environment. The children are beginning to develop their listening skills through daily opportunities to tune into sounds and not be distracted by objects and people around them. Listening and attention skills are very important skills for learning to be successful.

Nursery rhymes also feature very highly during our phonics sessions. This week we have sung Pat a cake, pat a cake.

Maths

This week in maths, we've been focusing on **matching and pairing**, helping children develop early problem-solving and reasoning skills. The children have explored matching in a variety of ways—by **number**, **colour**, and **size**—and are beginning to explain their thinking using descriptive language. One of our key activities involved **number shapes**, where children counted the holes in each shape and matched them to another with the same number. This not only supported number recognition but also encouraged careful observation and comparison.

We also introduced matching through everyday objects and play:

- **Pairing socks** helped children notice patterns and similarities.
- **Building matching towers** encouraged them to compare height, colour, and shape.
- **Sorting buttons** allowed them to explore texture, size, and colour differences.

As children become more confident, we're encouraging them to explain *why* two items match, using phrases like "It's the same size," or "They are both red." This helps build mathematical vocabulary and communication skills.

Expressive Art

This week, the children have been busy expressing their creativity through a variety of art activities. Inspired by *The Little Red Hen*, they created their own hens using paper plates, exploring how colours mix and using collage materials to add features. We also introduced clay, which the children explored and discovered how it can be moulded into different shapes. They have now started making apple pinch pots—an exciting project that's still in progress and helping them explore texture and form in a hands-on way.

We have also been creating our own pebble families! Using different sized pebbles, the children have arranged them to represent each family member.

Exploring texture in nature!

Outdoors, we've been discovering the textures of nature in our forest area. Using words like *smooth*, *rough*, and *bumpy*, the children created texture rubbings with wax crayons and paper—bringing the natural world into their artwork.

Nursery and Reception Harvest Assembly

You are invited to come along to our first assembly on Thursday 9th October at 9.05am. This takes place in the main school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

TEAMS

Hopefully any glitches have now been sorted and everyone is now able to log in successfully to their child's TEAMS account. It is important that you are able to access the account ready for parents evening.

Outdoor learning

A reminder that your child needs to bring in their outdoor learning kit every Wednesday. Clothing must be clearly named and inside a bag with their name on the outside.

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 9.30am, 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