



WELFORD-ON-AVON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURSERY NEWS

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term. The children have returned full of enthusiasm and have quickly settled back into nursery routines, ready for a busy and exciting few weeks ahead. This half term, we will continue to explore seasonal changes during autumn and learn about a variety of festivals, including: Bonfire Night, Diwali, St Nicholas Day and Christmas.

This week, we began by sharing our personal experiences of Bonfire Night. The children enjoyed watching a video clip of a firework display and talked about the sounds, colours, and patterns they could see and hear. We also discussed other occasions when fireworks might be used, such as special birthdays, weddings, Diwali, and New Year celebrations.

As part of our Picture News session, we explored the idea of whether fireworks should be made quieter. This led to thoughtful discussions about how fireworks can make animals and people feel—especially those who may be frightened by loud noises. The children showed great empathy as they considered the feelings of pets, wildlife and each other.

Talking about these first-hand experiences supports children's understanding of history in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Through recalling and discussing past events in their own lives, children begin to develop a sense of time and an awareness of how things change. This links directly to the 'Past and Present' strand within the Understanding the World area of learning.

We will continue to share our experiences of fireworks and Bonfire Night next week, especially for those children who may attend organised events over the weekend. These ongoing conversations help all children feel included and give them the opportunity to reflect on and talk about their own experiences.

Mathematical Thinking: Numbers 1 and 2

This week, we revisited the numbers 1 and 2 through a range of practical activities. The children engaged in sorting objects and matching them to numerals, helping to strengthen their subitising skills—the ability to recognise small quantities without counting. We explored different arrangements of objects and pictures, encouraging the children to notice patterns and make connections between quantity and number.

These hands-on experiences support early number sense and lay the foundation for confident mathematical thinking.

Outdoor Fun – Bonfire and Fireworks Role Play

What better way to mark Bonfire Night than with a Forest School session on the 5th of November! The children worked together to build a pretend bonfire using autumn leaves and sticks they gathered themselves. Using their hands to rake and collect the leaves, they created a wonderful natural bonfire in the forest area.

Once the bonfire was ready, we all sat around it and took part in some imaginative role play. The children pretended to be fireworks, waving their imaginary sparklers, making firework sounds with their voices, and even pretending to eat a hot dog! This activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, and expressive language, while also helping the children explore the sights, sounds, and feelings associated with Bonfire Night in a safe and playful way.


Phonics Focus: Introducing the Letter 's'

In our daily phonics sessions, we have begun learning about letters and their associated phonetic sounds. This week, the children were introduced to the letter 's'.

Using multisensory actions and engaging activities, the children are beginning to link the sound to the written letter. These early experiences are key to developing phonemic awareness, which is the foundation for early reading and writing.

We also talked about the importance of correct pronunciation. For example, the sound for 's' is 'sss' as in snake, not 'suh'. Encouraging accurate articulation helps children blend and segment sounds more effectively as they progress in their phonics journey.

Grapheme and mnemonic	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase	Multisensory action
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	<p>S</p>	<p>Show your teeth and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss</p>	<p>Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.</p>	<p>Motion the hand to look like a snake moving</p>
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Creative

Using scratch art paper and a wooden mark making tool, the children have experimented making firework patterns. They were excited to see how when they made marks onto their black paper, bright colours appeared, creating fireworks in the night sky.

Continuing with an autumn theme, we have been looking closely at pumpkins, using all of our senses—we touched the bumpy skin, noticed the colour's, shapes and texture.

The children began to articulate their observations, describing what they could see, feel, and smell. They then created their own observational drawings, focusing on the details they had noticed. This activity supported both expressive arts and language development, encouraging the children to look carefully and describe what they experienced.

Shared Reading Book

Next week, your child will be bringing home a book to share with you as part of our Early Years reading journey. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy stories together and support your child's developing love of reading.

Further information will be sent home alongside the book, including guidance on when to return it and suggestions for how to make the most of sharing books at home. We hope this will be an enjoyable and valuable part of your child's learning experience.

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*