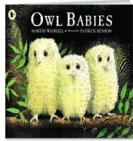


Term Talk



CURRICULUM NEWS
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ST JOSEPH'S
Issued Termly Autumn 2026 Year Nursery September - December 2026



Literacy

Autumn is packed with wonderful storybook adventures!

Each week, we will focus on a key text to build rich vocabulary, encourage storytelling, and foster a deep love for reading.

In **Autumn 1**, our topic is "Marvellous Me", where each week we will focus on a text such as *Owl Babies*, *Marvellous Me*, *From Head to Toe*, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, *The Elephant and the Bad Baby*, *Henry Hedgehog*, and *The Leaf Thief*.

In **Autumn 2**, we venture "Into the Woods" to explore animal homes and feelings, focusing each week on rhyming texts such as *The Happy Pumpkin*, *Fireworks*, *Oi Frog!*, *One Mole Digging a Hole*, *The Gruffalo*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *What the Ladybird Heard at Christmas*, and *The True Meaning of Christmas*.

Through **literacy**, children will bring books to life by **making character masks, retelling stories through acting, and exploring small-world play**. By fully immersing themselves in the magic of these wonderful stories, they will **build language skills and explore exciting new ideas** every single week!



PE

This half term the children will be practicing teamwork and listening skills during physical activities. Developing both fine motor skills (hand strength and pencil control) and gross motor skills (climbing, balancing, and coordination). **Note: Children do not need a PE kit in nursery!**

Reading

Reading opens the door to imagination!

Every week, your child will bring home a library book chosen specifically for you to read together to instil a lifelong love of books. Books will be changed once a week.

Please ensure your child's library book stays in their book bag every day so we can swap it smoothly on their designated day.

Phonics



Autumn 1: We will focus on-Rhyme Time to help children settle into our routines. We will learn one new nursery rhyme each week to build sound awareness.

Autumn 2: We will introduce one phonics sound per week following our phonics program. Through fun games like What's in the Box?, general listening activities, and oral blending games such as Can you touch your h-e-a-d? children will sharpen their listening skills and begin to learn to distinguish



Maths

Our little mathematicians will be exploring foundational skills through playful, hands-on tasks! We will practise concepts like more than, fewer than, and the same, alongside subitising (instantly recognising small quantities like 1, 2, and 3 without counting). Children will build with shapes and objects, copy and create repeating patterns, hear and order number names, and explore position and spatial concepts to understand the world around them.

Maths is all around us in our everyday lives! You can spark your child's curiosity and challenge them at home with these fun, simple everyday games:

- **Dinner Helper Challenge:**
"We have 3 people having dinner tonight—can you count out 3 forks and 3 plates for the table?"
- **Number Detective:**
"Can you spot a number on a door, a bus, or a car number plate while we are walking to nursery?"
- **Matching & Sorting:**
"Can you count how many red cars pass by, and then find the same number of red leaves on the ground?"
- **Snack Time Subitising:**
"Look at your plate—without counting one by one, can you tell me if there are 1, 2, or 3 slices of apple?"

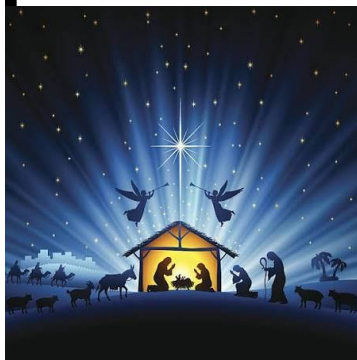
Religious Education

Following the *Lighting the Path* scheme, we will learn that God made our beautiful world and that He loves every single one of us as part of His family. Throughout the term, the children will also learn our morning, afternoon, and home time prayers, practising being calm, quiet, and respectful as we say them together.

- **Autumn 1:** We will learn the words and actions for the Sign of the Cross, celebrate God's creation through artwork and nature walks, and explore how we enter God's family through Baptism.



- **Autumn 2:** We will focus on how unique God made each of us and why we must care for ourselves, our families, and others. Finally, we will learn all about the Nativity story and prepare a special Christmas performance for you!



Understanding of the World

As the leaves change colour, we will collect leaves, conkers and sticks, bringing nature directly into our water play, sensory trays, and crafts. Linking to our topic books, we will explore prickly hedgehog habitats like the ones in *Henry Hedgehog*, examine woodland animal homes from *The Gruffalo* and *One Mole Digging a Hole*, and discover where animals hide when it gets cold. The children will also turn into little chefs as we bake hedgehog biscuits and make autumn treats!



Expressive Arts and Design

Creative exploration will be everywhere! We want our little artists to fully immerse themselves through sensory exploration, hands-on discovery, and rich imagination—and that means it is completely okay to get a little bit messy! Children will practise holding pencils, pens, and paintbrushes correctly as they create self-portrait collages inspired by *Marvellous Me*, paint explosive firework pictures using salad spinners, and make detailed owl models inspired by *Our Babies*. We focus on the pure joy, curiosity, and creative process of making art rather than just the finished product! correctly as they create self-portrait collages inspired by *Marvellous Me*, paint explosive firework pictures using salad spinners, and make detailed owl models inspired by *Owl Babies*. We focus on the pure joy, curiosity, and creative process of making art rather than just the finished product!

Things to Remember

- **Label Everything:** Please ensure you label absolutely everything, jumpers, coats, water bottles, book bags, and spare clothes! Unlabelled items are easily mixed up or misplaced, and clear labels make it much easier to return misplaced items swiftly.
- **Clothing & Shoes:** Dress your child in navy tracksuit bottoms that are easy to pull up and down independently, along with black shoes or trainers (Velcro fasteners preferred—no laces!).
- **Toilet Training & Spare Clothes:** If your child is currently learning to use the toilet, please ensure you provide a set of spare clothes in their bag, as accidents are likely to happen. Please make sure all spare clothes are clearly labelled as well!
- **Daily Essentials:** Send a clearly labelled water bottle and a labelled book bag every single day.
- **Snacks (Full-Time Children):** If your child stays all day, please pack a healthy 2:00 PM snack in a small, labelled plastic container. Healthy ideas include whole or cut fruit, vegetable sticks, breadsticks, rice cakes, or plain cheese cubes. Please slice round foods like grapes or cherry tomatoes lengthways to prevent choking hazards.
- Please **do not** send sweet treats, chocolate, or crisps.



PSED

Settling into nursery means learning how to build wonderful friendships! Your children will practice sharing, using kind words, showing good manners, and understanding how to be a helpful, caring friend during daily group play and classroom activities.