



EYFS TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1 Term 2024

Hey, Look at Me! (2 weeks)

During our first topic, both adults and children will really get to know one another. The children will begin to learn each other's names and make new friends. We will read stories about starting school and compared them to our own experiences. The children will enjoy exploring their new classrooms and base areas as well as the resources within it. We know that the children will settle in extremely well and will do an excellent job of remembering our class routines.

Oh no, it's a Gruffalo! (2 weeks)

For our next topic, we will be reading one of our favourite books, 'The Gruffalo'. The children will try to find a Gruffalo in our outdoor space and spot some of his footprints! Throughout the topic, the children will learn parts of the Gruffalo story and we will put actions to them. As well as the Gruffalo story, we will be reading some other amazing stories written by Julia Donaldson. The children will think carefully about the characters, settings and events in these stories and will also have a focus on rhyme.

Over the Rainbow (2 weeks)

Our next topic will be 'Over the Rainbow'. We are looking forward to exploring art from artists including Jackson Pollock and Kandinsky and the children will create some of their own art. They will use a variety of materials and try a range of techniques. One of our favourites is always the splatter paintings! As we want the children to be as independent as they can be, we will teach them how to access the art resources themselves ready for when they wish to use them. The children will learn about the primary colours and how to mix them to create new colours. Our literacy focus will be on both fiction and non-fiction books about colour such as 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear', 'Elmer' and 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. In maths, the children will be learning about the numbers 1, 2



and 3 in depth. They will practise writing each number, representing the numbers using concrete apparatus and comparing them to each other.

People Who Help Us (3 weeks)

The following topic will be 'People Who Help Us', which will start before half term and continue when we return after the half term holiday. During this topic, the children will use the internet and non-fiction books to find out about different occupations. We will also invite visitors to come into school to speak to the children about their jobs, and how they help others, including what to do in an emergency. In maths, the children will be representing and making numbers to 5.

Focus Author

Each half term, we learn about an author and read a range of their books. Our focus author this half term is Julia Donaldson, who has written many books, including 'The Gruffalo', 'Stickman', 'The Highway Rat' and 'Room on the Broom'. It would be fantastic if you could share any books by this author at home or visit the local library to borrow some.

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 17th September – EYFS Welcome to Base parents meeting in the school hall at 6pm

Wednesday 18th September – Parent Volunteer Meeting in school at 2:15pm

Monday 23rd September – Early Years children start to attend school full time

Monday 23rd September – Friends of Ad Astra PTA coffee morning in the school hall from 8:30am until 9:30am

Thursday 26th September – EYFS Phonics Information Workshop for parents at 2:15pm at Ad Astra Infant School and at 6pm at Canford Heath Infant School (please attend either event)

Thursday 26th September – Friends of Ad Astra PTA AGM in the school hall from 3pm until 4pm

Wednesday 2nd October – Fraser Photography in school for cross school Ad Astra and Haymoor Junior School sibling photos

Thursday 3rd October – Friendship Day

Friday 4th October – Fraser Photography in school for individual and in-school sibling photos

Tuesday 22nd October – Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm (letter to follow)

Wednesday 23rd October – Parents Evening 4:30pm-7:30pm (letter to follow)

Friday 25th October – Sponsored Read Launch and Julia Donaldson dress up day

Additional dates maybe added over the half term. Please check the school calendar regularly.

PE

During this half term, the children will be learning to improve their coordination and balance skills through stories and games.

PE days are as follows:

Monday – Caterpillars

Tuesday – Froglets

Thursday – Ducklings

Please help us to keep your child safe by removing their earrings on PE days; otherwise, they will be unable to take part in these sessions. Please also ensure that if your child has long hair, it is always tied back; their PE kit is in school and that their clothes are clearly labelled with their name. Your child's PE kit will be sent home at the end of the half term to be washed. Please return it ready for the first week back after October half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Early Years Team

Miss Bridgman, Mrs Ford and Mr Baumber