



## Little Herons Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2025

**Welcome** to the new year at North Curry Primary School and to Little Herons Class.

The purpose of the **class newsletter** is to provide important information about arrangements in Little Herons and to give you a flavour of what we will be doing during the term.

Keep an eye out for news and messages from Little Herons on **Famly**.

### Who's who in Little Herons

Mrs Helen Morley is the Nursery Manager and Tom Stanley is the Nursery Deputy Manager (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Miss Clare and Miss Megan are our practitioners. Miss Clare works Mondays and Wednesdays. Miss Megan works Tuesdays to Fridays. Miss Louise is our nursery apprentice, and she is in nursery every day. Mrs Carla Finch is our bank practitioner and administrator.

From Tom and the Little Herons team.



### CURRICULUM AREAS

**Maths:** 'Getting to know you' activities counting songs, numerical patterns, birthdays/cards/cakes, mathematical equipment; dice, scales, measuring equipment, exploring, matching and sorting objects, counting, colours, and positional language.

**Literacy:** stories with familiar settings, traditional stories including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Mr Gumpy's Outing', 'The Little Red Hen', and 'Owl Babies', some books without text for imaginative discussion, non-fiction texts and fantasy stories.

**IT:** Ipads and listening centre.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Taking part in simple/pretext play, being imaginative with small worlds and construction kits, and exploring different materials. Exploring with colour and colour mixing. Joining in and singing in the Nativity performance.

**RE:** Celebrating Harvest.

**PSED:** Self-regulation; Managing self, building relationships

**Understanding the World:** Signs of Autumn, exploring natural materials, old and new toys, houses, and my family history.

**Communication and Language:** Listening, attention and understanding, speaking.

Literacy: comprehension, word reading, writing.

**Physical Development:** Gross and fine motor skills. Gross motor skills using our wonderful garden, the apparatus and the racetrack.

### Phonics

The main focus in Little Herons class is language comprehension. It is vital to embed oral activities during the early years and to support our children in the nursery, we model speaking in whole sentences and do lots of talking throughout the day, especially in play. We have planned storybooks throughout the year that children grow to love, connecting them to the role play area and other areas of the nursery environment. These stories are in addition to the wealth of stories, nursery rhymes and songs that are part of the nursery day. We teach phonological awareness before teaching the first 30 sounds explicitly.

We look at the Read, Write, Inc chart and learn about the pictures and what we can see in them. We emphasize the sound at the start of the picture. For example, mmmmmmm mountain! We do lots of Fred Talk, this is where we say words and encourage the children to work out what is being said, for example, "I can see a c-a-t." "Can you touch your l-i-p?" We Begin to teach the sounds as soon as children are able to hear initial phonemes, eg. they are able to identify that dog begins with the d sound. Children will also practice writing the sounds they learn when they are ready. There are useful videos and you can find out more on the Ruth Miskin Parent Page:

[www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents)

### Forest School

As often as possible, we will visit our Forest School area for forest school/outdoor learning. This will mostly take place in the area of the sensory garden that is fenced off. Children will be taken in groups to take part in fun learning activities, led by an adult. We have waterproof all in ones in various sizes, but if you would like to provide one for your child, please feel free to do so.





### Topic

'Let's Explore' and 'Marvellous Machines'.

We will be talking about our emotions and my family and me, relationships and the local area. In the second half of the term, 'Marvellous Machines' is a interest-led project of how machines can help us. The children will have lots of opportunities to build and create their own machines.



### Snack Times

At around 10 am and 3pm, the snack area opens. The children can sit at the breakfast bar and join in snack should they wish to. We encourage all of the children to have something. The snacks will include fruit and some of the following: cheese, either breadsticks, rice cakes or toast, vegetables and yoghurt. Water is always available to drink and milk is available as an alternative. **NB** Snacks are always age and stage appropriate.



We are very fortunate to have such a lovely environment around the school and we will be making good use of it to support our learning.

We will also make the most of our beautiful school grounds and will be venturing out every day. It would be helpful if the children had their own wellies that could stay in school. If this is not possible, it would be helpful if wellies could be brought in every day. If you are not able to provide a pair, we do have some spares in school.

### Cookery

During the course of the year, we hope to be able to cook and taste foods. It is important that you have informed us of any **allergies** your child has. Please ensure you inform the school if there are any changes to medical information during the school year. **Please note that we are a nut free school.**



We are looking forward to working with you and hope that your child has a happy, inspiring time in Little Herons. Inevitably queries and concerns do sometimes arise so please mention any issues to us as soon as possible. If your query or concern is urgent, we are usually available to chat at drop off and pick up, (although these times can sometimes be very busy). The **Family App** is a great way to message us, and we can usually respond within a few hours. Alternatively, we can be contacted on:

01823 490423

[office@nc.huish.education](mailto:office@nc.huish.education)

[littleheronspreschool@nc.huish.education](mailto:littleheronspreschool@nc.huish.education)

### Slippers

Many of the children in nursery like to take their shoes off, and while we want the children to feel calm and relaxed, we cannot have bare feet for safety reasons.

Research suggests that wearing slippers can support wellbeing. Wearing slippers is also better for developing bones in little feet. Therefore, if possible, please provide a named pair of slippers that can be left in school, (please note that there is no obligation to do so). We will change into these for our classroom time and wear shoes or wellies when we go outside.

