

Minnow Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2025



Welcome to the Minnow Class newsletter for the new 2025-26 year. The purpose of the class newsletter is to provide important information about arrangements in Minnows and to give you a flavour of what we will be doing during the autumn term.

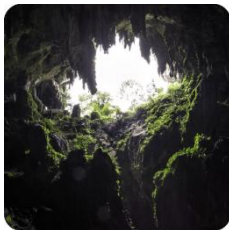
Keep an eye out for important notices and reminders on MCAS and Famly.



Our topics this term:

Let's Explore

In the Let's Explore project, your child will explore their class environment and school grounds so that they feel settled and happy in their new surroundings. They will learn about the local environment and find out about places they have visited on holiday. They will look at and create maps for journeys.



Supporting your child at home:

- Use Google Earth to explore the locality.
- Go on a walk around your local community and talk about the things that you see.
- Encourage your child to talk about the activities they enjoy doing at school.

Marvellous Machines

In the Marvellous Machines project, your child will learn about technology that is part of their daily lives. They will explore various machines, learn about how machines help us and find out about how machines have changed and developed over time. They will learn about products that use electricity to make them work and explore magnetic and non-magnetic materials.



Supporting your child at home:

- Talk about the machines and technology you use in your everyday lives.
- Look for things in the home that are powered by electricity.
- Look for items that are powered by batteries.

Maths (using White Rose): Getting to know you, match sort and compare, measure and patterns, representing, subitising, 1 more, 1 less, composition of numbers and shape.

Literacy/English: Stories with familiar settings, traditional stories, books without text for imaginative discussion, non-fiction texts and fantasy stories.

Key texts: Five Minutes Peace, information texts (based on people who help us), recipes and traditional tales.

Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive, self-portraits using a variety of media, songs and exploring instruments, imaginative play and story improvisation using small world equipment.

Religious and World Education (RWE): Celebrating harvest as well as learning about special me and special times (Christmas and Hannukah).

Personal Social Emotional Development (PSED) (using Scarf): Self-regulation; Managing self, building relationships. PSHE: Me and My Relationships and Valuing Difference.

Understanding the World (UTW): Past and present, People culture and communities, the natural world.

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

Physical Development (PE): Gross and fine motor skills. P.E with Mr Bulbeck is every Monday. Please ensure your child brings their P.E kit into school in a drawstring bag and that everything inside it is clearly labelled. We will get changed for P.E and then remain in kits for the rest of the day. Wherever possible, P.E will take place outside so please ensure that your child has suitable clothing.

Phonics:

Phonics will take place every day as a structured lesson, beginning with 10-minute sessions and gradually increasing through the year. Children will be introduced to the first set of Read, Write, Inc (RWI) sounds. Your child might be familiar with some sounds, if they have been exposed to them at a nursery level. Please do not worry if it appears that your child is repeating anything. We work systematically through the scheme and the lessons are tailored to be delivered in a certain way and to revisit and recap frequently. As well as learning the phoneme, the children will now also learn the grapheme.



In your child's book bag, there will be a phonics sounds key ring for you to use at home to consolidate what we are learning in class. I will send RWI videos with QR codes on Famly for you to watch at home with your child and support their progress. We quickly progress through the sounds so revisiting and practising them at home will help your child to maintain progress.

Bookbags

Your child will be given 2 sharing books in their bookbag on Monday 8th September. These will begin as wordless books which can be shared and discussed at home. As your child learns their sounds and starts to blend them together, they will be given a RWI sound blending book to practise at home and 2 sharing books a week to share with you. Please make sure that your child brings their bookbag into school everyday as they might get to read their book with an adult in school, in addition to at home. We encourage you to listen to your child re-read their book/s to build fluency and speed.

Yellow Reading Logs

In your child's book bag will also be a yellow reading record log. Please record when your child has read their book/s at home. If your child has not read the book/s they will not be changed. Books are changed on Mondays.

As a school, we monitor how often children are reading at home and those who read 5 times a week receive a golden ticket and are entered into a class prize draw to win a book token to spend in the library vending machine.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to speak to me directly at pick up at the gate by the classroom or email the school office and they will pass it onto me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Taylor

Wellies/Waterproofs

Outdoor learning will take place every day. We will go on welly walks to learn about the seasonal changes that happen in autumn. We will take part in practical and creative activities that will support children to learn about the season of autumn.

It would be helpful if children had their own named pair of wellies that stay in school for these occasions and for playing outside the classroom with the water. A pair of waterproof trousers would also help ensure that children stay clean and dry during the school day.



I will be in touch with dates of off-site welly walks soon. Please can you let me know if you are able to come with Minnow Class to support with walking and crossing the roads. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Nativity Play

This year our Nativity play will be taking place on Tuesday 9th December at 2.00 and 6.00pm. Details including parts and costumes to follow.

