

Little Herons

Class Newsletter Spring Term 2026

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed the festivities and the children had a chance to rest and recharge their batteries. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the Christmas cards, which included so many kind words of appreciation and the gifts that were sent to us.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to support the children in building positive relationships and becoming more confident when interacting with both familiar and unfamiliar people. We will be encouraging them to feel comfortable and secure in new situations, helping them to express themselves and develop independence. The children will also have lots of opportunities during circle time to talk about our Golden Rules, exploring what they are and how they are important. We will be finding out how they help us to be kind, safe and respectful towards one another.



Our youngest children will be developing their relationships with adults and finding ways of managing transition periods throughout the day.

Understanding the World



Our topic this term is 'Long Ago'. This project explores what life was like in the past compared to today. We will be looking at photos of when we were younger and sharing stories about things that have happened in the past. We will incorporate time-related language such as 'long ago', 'in the past', 'before', 'now', and 'then.'

The second half of spring, our topic will be 'Ready, Steady, Grow'. This project teaches children about growth and change. We will explore how plants, animals and people grow and develop over time, using stories, hands on activities and outdoor learning. The children will have the opportunities to plant seeds, care for living things and talk about how they have grown themselves.

Forest School, welly walks and the garden

With our wonderful British weather, areas of the garden that we like to play in, are quite wet and muddy. If you would like to send a pair of wellies in, this would be most helpful. These can either be left in nursery or brought in and sent home each day. We have some spares too. Forest School will take place with Miss Louise in our forest school area.

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 and that wearing slippers is better for developing bones in little feet. We have a box of slippers that the children have access to, but if you would like to provide your child with their own slippers that can be left in nursery, you are welcome to, (please note that there is no obligation to do so). We will change into slippers for our classroom time and wear shoes or wellies when we go outside.

Writing

In **Little Herons** we will continue to develop very early skills and abilities:

- Gross and fine muscle control
- Hand-eye co-ordination
- A positive attitude and interest in writing
- Ability to grip a pencil
- Ability to recognise and recreate patterns and shapes; through frequent mark-making opportunities

The school leavers/those that are ready, will be exposed to Read, Write, Inc set 1 sounds and will be learning to write their names.

Our youngest children will be exploring early mark making through sensory activities.

Literacy

We will be reading and sharing lots of stories related to our topic and also some non-fiction texts. These will include *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*, *One Year With Kipper*, *Rosie's Hat*, *The Hungry Caterpillar*, *Oliver's Vegetables*, *Handa's Surprise* and *The Enormous Turnip*. We will make use of IT equipment to listen to stories and will immerse children in the stories in a range of ways including story maps, story sacks and role play. We will also take a trip to the school library to find some exciting new books that we haven't seen before.

Our youngest children will be looking at books both independently and with an adult. We will explore books with different textures and books relating to our topic.

Maths

Through our topics we will be exploring sequencing and time related activities and events and singing number songs. We will be teaching fast recognition of up to 3 objects without having to count them individually (subitising), reciting numbers past 5, showing 'finger numbers' up to 5, linking numerals and amounts, talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes using informal and mathematical language, select shapes appropriately for tasks e.g. flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof etc and combining shapes to make new ones.

Our youngest children will begin to develop an awareness of number names through action rhymes and songs. We will explore the concept of object permanence and help them to begin to recognise big and small things in meaningful contexts.

Physical Development

We will play outside everyday and may sometimes do extra PE in the hall when the opportunity arises.

The children will continue to work on their fine motor skills daily, this will be through using manipulatives such as play doh, sand, loose parts play, pom poms, tweezers and threading. In addition to this, we will work on gross motor skills, creating dens and obstacle courses as well as using the forest school garden and the climbing equipment. All these things help to develop the core muscles needed to support posture, balance and eventually writing.

Our youngest children will be developing their fine motor skills by picking up small objects between their thumb and fingers. We will encourage holding mark making materials in a palmer grip to make random marks and use large scale equipment to encourage gross motor movements.

Expressive Arts and Design

Lots of creative, colourful and messy art and design took place in the Autumn term and we loved it!

We continue into the new term with great plans in colour mixing and using different materials and textures to create pieces of art as individual as our children. We will use props in role-play and begin to invent our own stories and will be singing lots of songs relating to number and our topic.

Our youngest children will be encouraged to explore different media and materials through tuff trays and sensory experiences.

Communication and Language

We are always developing our communication and language skills in Little Herons. We will be exploring some non-fiction books relating to our topic and will also look at many familiar stories encouraging the children to think about what might happen next. We will also retell stories through the use of props and songs.

The children will develop their vocabulary, answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Our youngest children will be developing the ability to follow others body language including pointing and gesture. They will be beginning to use single words and make sounds in play. e.g Brrrrmm for car and Baa for sheep.

New children

As you may be aware, we have some new children, including babies, starting in Little Herons over the next few weeks. We look forward to welcoming them and we will be encouraging both younger and older children to mix where appropriate. We are anticipating that we will have some very helpful children who will be great role models.

As Tom has now left, there has been a reallocation of key workers for your children. You will be informed if your child's Key Person has changed and this information will also be updated on Famly. We are hopeful to appoint a new nursery practitioner as soon as possible.

You should have received an observation from your child's key worker from the end of the Autumn term. Another will be sent at February half term. However, our doors are always open and if you would like to discuss anything before then please feel welcome to do so. Also, you can phone, email or message on Famly should an issue arise, or you need to pass on information.

Many thanks,

The Little Herons Team