



# Ash AUTUMN 1 Newsletter

## Welcome

A warm welcome to the Astley Early Years and Ash class. It has been an absolute joy welcoming you and your families over the last week to our school. You should be very proud of your children, who have been full of enthusiasm and courage as they have taken their first steps in this academic year. It has been a joy to have them all in class.

Next week, you will have already received a letter explaining how to access your child's Seesaw account and how to find the QR codes within your child's reading record. If you wish to share learning or photographs from home, then please log in using your child's home learning QR code. Family members are unable to upload. We will use this platform regularly and if you have any issues, please see Miss Creig.

Within this newsletter, we will outline:

- our Early Years ethos
- the Reception curriculum
- the Nursery curriculum
- key texts for this term
- parental engagement
- Forest School and PE
- key dates
- reminders

We have an incredibly busy first half term and we can't wait to share our learning with you on the following dates:

- Friday 27th September - Macmillan coffee afternoon
- Thursday 10th October - Harvest Celebration Service at St. Peter's Church - Reception children
- Thursday 17th October - Ash class assembly - 9am in the hall

If you have any questions or concerns, please see us either in the morning, after school or send an email to [ash@astley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ash@astley.worcs.sch.uk)

Miss Creig, Mrs Roberts, Miss Howells and Miss Wills

## Astley's Early Years Ethos

At Astley, we believe that children in the Early Years learn best through play. We also know how important it is for them to spend extended periods of time outdoors. Therefore our curriculum is designed to provide the children these opportunities. We are an experienced staff team and move the children's learning on through careful questioning and modelling throughout all parts of the day. We are committed to ensuring that every child receives the best possible start to their primary school life and provides the support that enables them to go beyond their potential.



"Children learn as they play.  
More importantly, in play,  
children learn how to learn."

-O. Fred Donaldson

## Reception Curriculum

This term our two big questions are: *Where do I live?*

We will also explore Harvest and what this means to us.

**Communication and Language** – we are learning how to be a good listener and how listen attentively to stories. We will be using longer sentences to retell The Three Little Pigs orally as well as sharing experiences from educational visits and outdoor learning experiences. We will also be describing objects and asking and answering 'what' questions.

**PSED** - we will be learning about being unique and an individual but also part of larger communities. We are exploring our families, looking at similarities and differences. We are also using The Emotion Beas to help us to understand and share our emotions and feelings.

**Physical Development** – our focus this term is developing our fine motor skills by using tweezers, opening pegs, rolling playdough, threading objects and using a range of mark making tools. We will begin our PE lessons, learning to travel in different ways, stop and keep safe.

**Literacy** – we will begin learning letter sounds during our phonics lessons and some children will also learn the letter formation. Every morning the children will practice writing their name. As we progress through the term, the children will identify the initial sounds for key characters in our focus texts and record these using the correct letter formation. Some children may begin to write cvc words.

**Maths** - we will explore numbers 0 to 5, understanding the composition of each number, how it looks in different compositions. There will also be a big focus on subitising to five – knowing how many there are without counting them

**RE** - our question for the term is Being Special: Where do we belong? We'll discuss the communities we belong to and understand how God loves us all.

**Understanding the World** - after learning how to be safe in our new environments we will be looking carefully at our families, naming each member and beginning to understanding our family history. **Next week please upload a family photograph onto your child's Seesaw account - you will need to use the children's home learning log in to do this.**

**Expressive Arts and Design** - we are going to focusing on how to use the different materials in the creative area. We will also have a focus on drawing different types of lines confidently, using pen, charcoal, chalk and paint.



## Nursery Curriculum

This term our two big questions are: *Where do I live?*

We will also explore Harvest and what this means to us.

**Communication and Language** – we are learning how to be a good listener and to use longer sentences to retell well known stories with objects to support. We will be learning how to describe objects and to use descriptions to pick out an object from a collection.



**PSED** - we will begin the term by exploring our emotions using the Emotion Bear cards as well as simple vocabulary to share how we feel at different parts of the day. We will spend the majority of the term building a sense of community within Ash class and as part of the wider school community as well as building relationships with both adults and other children.

**Physical Development** – our focus this term is developing our gross motor skills by moving larger resources, waving ribbons and streamers as well as developing our balancing skills when using the balance bikes and trikes. The Nursery children will also have two hall sessions each week to develop their jumping, climbing and hanging skills.

**Literacy** – throughout the term, the children will be exploring different types of print and giving meaning to what they think they mean. We will also learn that print in books goes from top to bottom and left to right. During adult led sessions, the children will be distinguishing between sounds.

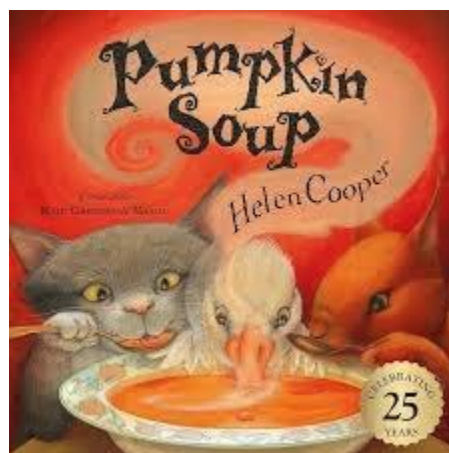
**Maths** - we will explore colours and spend time matching and sorting objects according to a range of criteria (e.g., size, shape, colour).

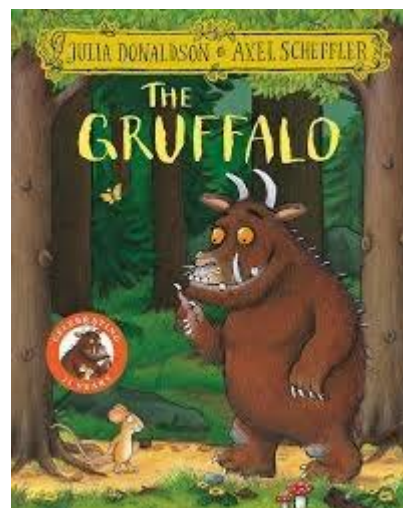
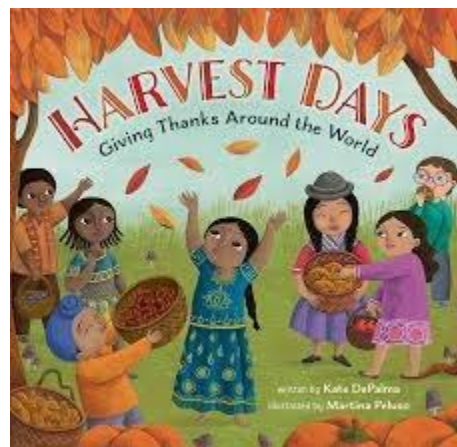
**Understanding the World** - after learning how to be safe in our new environments we will be looking carefully at our families, naming each member and beginning to understanding our family history. **Next week please upload a family photograph onto your child's Seesaw account - you will need to use the children's home learning log in to do this.**

**Expressive Arts and Design** - this year there will be a nursery rhyme of the week, the children will learn both the traditional version and may then use the melody to create their own songs. The children will explore different textures and then use a range of resources to make marks.



## Key texts









Thank you for your support already, especially with home reading with the Reception children - it makes a huge impact and difference!



## Forest School, Outdoor Learning and PE

### **Forest School**

Nursery will use the Forest School site on a Tuesday.

Reception will have a Forest School session every Wednesday with Mrs Griffiths.

Children should come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes - long trousers, long sleeved top and other clothing for the weather (hats, gloves etc.) Please ensure everything is named.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Friday is our outdoor learning day, where we spend the majority of the day outside either on the school site or in the local area.

All children should come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes.

### **PE**

PE for Reception children is timetabled for a Tuesday and Thursday, but may change due to clashes with events being held within school. All PE kits are in school and will be sent home at the end of the half term, unless they need a wash beforehand.

Nursery have a timetabled hall session on a Wednesday to allow them to develop their gross motor skills. They will only take off their shoes and socks.



## Key Dates

25th September - Parent drop ins - 3:20pm until 3:40pm - time to speak to class teachers, ask any questions that

27th September - Macmillan coffee afternoon - further details to follow

10th October - Harvest Celebration Service at St. Peter's Church - children to be dropped off at church - Nursery children at school as normal

17th October - Ash class assembly - 9am in the hall. If Nursery children are in school then they will be involved

25th October - School closed for pupils - TED day

27th October to 1st November - School closed - Half Term

4th November - School reopens - Whole School Remembrance Focus Week

14th November - Diwali dance workshop - parents welcome at the end of the day - further details to follow

21st November - Individual and sibling school photographs

17th December - Early Year's Nativity - 2:15pm in the hall - all children are welcome to take part



## Reminders

Please **read each night** with your child. If you can make a note in their reading record this helps us know if the children need to change their books.

On Forest School days, children should come to school ***wearing their school shoes and Forest School shoes in a separate bag.***

Please ensure all belongings are named, including hats and gloves. This makes returning items much easier and successful.

