

Mount Pleasant Lane Primary School

EYFS Curriculum Newsletter

Acorns and Conkers Class - Autumn Term 1 – 2026



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the New School Year. We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. We are so excited to welcome you and your children to Early Years, whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another year. The children are already beginning to settle in beautifully, building new friendships, and becoming familiar with our daily routines and expectations. It's been a lovely start, and we are looking forward to a fantastic year together.

EYFS Team



Mrs Tyler
(Reception Class Teacher)



Mrs Whitlock
(Nursery Practitioner)



Mrs Sycamore
(Teaching Assistant)

Key dates for your diary



- Friday 4th September PTA Coffee Morning 8.45 to 10 am school hall
- Monday 7th September PTA AGM 6pm – 7.30pm
- From w/c 15th of September - Reception Baseline Assessment. Age-appropriate assessment of Maths, Literacy and Communication Language, linked to the EYFS.
- Friday 17th September PTA Pre-Loved Book Sale
- Thursday 21st October Yom Kippur
- **Phonics parent workshop 2.30pm tbc**
- Friday 16th October - PTA Halloween Disco
- Monday 19th October Diwali
- Wednesday 21st October - Open Classroom 3.20pm
- Friday 23rd October School closed to children
- **Autumn HALF TERM - Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October**
- Monday 2nd November - INSET DAY
- **Tuesday 3rd November - Back to school**



Reception P.E sessions will be on Thursday Morning.

Children will come to school in their PE clothes and wear them for the whole day (royal blue t-shirt which does not need to have a school logo). Please, remember that practising to independently dress is part of their learning process, and we will continue to encourage this in school with coats, jumpers, aprons, footwear. Please also ensure earrings are removed or covered with tape, hair always tied back, and all PE clothes are labelled and appropriate for the weather.

This half term the focus will be on children's movement and space negotiation.

Nursery do not have specific P.E. lessons but will have daily Physical Development in their play, outdoor activities and movement sessions.

Contact us



Communication is vital to us supporting the school community effectively. Please speak to any of us on the door for a short query or message. For longer conversations, please email at admin@mountpleasant.herts.sch.uk FAO class teacher name. Please be aware that teachers are teaching throughout the day so will be unable to get back to you straight away.

Please, remember to check your emails, MarvellousMe messages, class windows and doors for reminders.

Our theme this half term is: **All about Me!**

Phonics



- **Reception** children will have daily phonics lessons where they will learn to read individual letters by saying the sound for them. This will help their skills for blending for reading and segmenting for spelling. We will also focus on holding the pencil in the tripod grip and forming letters correctly. The children will be doing lots of reading and writing activities, based on our teaching of phonics. Children will be given the sounds and the harder to read and spell words taught so they can practice at home.
- **Nursery** children will focus on environmental sounds which will help them with their listening and recognition skills. Helping children to be able to listen carefully to identify sounds means that they will find it easier to distinguish sounds in words in the future. This is also a great opportunity for lots of discussion with children, extending their vocabulary.

Home Learning

Every half term **Reception** will receive a learning grid consisting of six activities to choose over the half term. Alongside weekly new sounds and HRSW.

Nursery should continue working on their Independence & self-care, self-regulation & emotions and communication.

Understanding the world



We will be encouraging children to participate in activities relating to our topic 'All About Me.' In this topic we will be learning about what makes us special, our families, rules and feelings, our senses, things we like/don't like, our favourite things, our home, our pets, our friends and keeping ourselves healthy. Children will be able to share familiar interests that their new friends may have in common with themselves, talk about what makes them different but still part of their class, their school and community, what makes a good friend, our experiences and cultures, whilst at the same time gaining confidence and independence.

Maths

White Rose Maths supported by Number Mastery.



- **Reception** children will be exploring pattern and learning how to compare. We will also learn how to count objects and subitise 1-5 – looking at an amount of objects and see how many there are without counting. Budding on 6, 7 and 8.
- **Nursery:** children will be developing counting and subitising skills. This term, they will learn to count and recognise numbers 1 to 3, practise saying number names in order, use their fingers to show amounts, and begin to notice if groups are the same or different. They will also explore dot patterns and start to recognise small amounts without counting.



Reading



- **Reception** children will have their own home reading book once the phase 2, set 1 phonics sounds have been taught. This needs to be kept in their book bags everyday as children will be listened to throughout the week. They will start to become familiar with HRS words that do not follow the normal phonics rules and therefore need to be learnt by sight. Reading with your child regularly is very important to ensure children become confident readers with good comprehension skills. **Please ensure you read with your child at least 4 times a week and log this on the Boom Reader portal.**

Reception will take home a library book of their choice and a reading book on Thursday.

- **Nursery** will take home a library book of their choice on Thursday.

LITERACY: Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do you see? by Eric Carle, Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, Where the Wild Things Are? by Maurice Sendak, Elmer by David McKee, Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne, Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper, Where's My Teddy by Jez Alborough, Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell and Don't wake the baby by Jonathan Allen with various other books related to the topic: "All About Me" and many more! ☺