

Newsletter Autumn One

A Warm Welcome to Reception 2026-2027

Home of the Foxes and the Owls

A huge, warm welcome we hope you had a fantastic summer!

We have a fantastic first half term planned and are looking forward to getting to know all our little squirrels. We cannot wait to see them settle, grow in confidence and discover just how much they can learn and achieve.

Curriculum

WE CAN BE HEROES!



This term, we will be exploring what makes us heroes and learning about how we can be strong, healthy, brave and resilient. We will build superhero hideouts, create our own superhero identities and take part in a range of exciting practical experiences. We will develop this further by exploring 'Who are our heroes?', thinking about the special people who inspire us, help us and who makes a difference in our lives and our community.

A variety of superhero-themed texts will support our learning across the curriculum, including literacy and our daily story time. These stories will provide opportunities to develop vocabulary, imagination, communication and a love of reading.

A topic web showing in more detail what your child will be learning this term has been uploaded to ClassDojo and our class page on the school website.

School Lunches

The school lunch menu can be viewed on our school website. Please be assured that Reception staff will support and encourage children as they develop their independence and confidence when eating in the dinner hall. Please inform the school office immediately of any allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements.

To help keep all children safe, all food brought onto the school premises must be **nut-free**, including snacks and any items included in your child's packed lunch. Please check food labels carefully before sending food into school.

Physical Education (PE)

During the Autumn term, children will have an indoor PE session on Wednesdays. They will also take part in Basketball session with Coach John on Thursdays. For both sessions, children should wear the school PE kit.

In colder weather, children may wear:

- Plain black or navy jogging bottoms or leggings alongside their white polo shirt and their school jumper, cardigan or school-logo t



In warmer weather, children may wear:

- Plain black or navy shorts

with their white polo short and their school jumper, cardigan or school logo hoodie

Children should wear suitable trainers for PE. For health and safety reasons, children will not be able to participate in PE wearing Crocs, heels or wellington boots, regardless of the weather. Jewellery must also be removed before PE sessions.

Labelling Clothing and Personal Items

Please help us to ensure that your child's belongings can be easily identified by clearly labelling all items with their name. This includes jumpers, coats, cardigans, hats, scarves, packed lunches, water bottles and other personal belongings.



Home Reading

We encourage families to make regular use of our Monster Phonics online reading books. A simple guide explaining how to access these books will be shared through ClassDojo shortly. The Monster Phonics books contain decodable words and focus on the sounds children are learning in school. We will send home reading book once we begin to cover the sounds included in the Reception Stage 1 books. We recommend that you listen to your child read at least three times each week. Please record any online reading in your child's reading log. You can also record when you share a favourite story together, as developing a love of books is just as important as practising reading skills.

Books That Bring Us Together

As part of our RE (Religious Education) we will be learning about 'Why books are special', we will explore how books can hold important stories, beliefs, memories, knowledge and how they can make us smile. If your child would like to donate a copy of their favourite book to our Reception class, we would be delighted to share it with the children. We will add a special sticker inside each donated book showing who donated it and the year they started at SMITH, creating a lasting collection for future children to enjoy and discover.

Communication

Thank you for signing up to ClassDojo. We will continue to use this as our main communication platform for sharing class updates and important information. This may include information about trips, enrichment activities, special learning events, visitors and other events happening in Reception.

You will see that ClassDojo messaging is turned off. Messages sent through ClassDojo are not monitored and may therefore be missed by our team. If you need to contact school, please use the school office as the main point of contact.

Playground – Before and After School

All children must be closely supervised by an accompanying adult before and after school. We ask that children do not use the equipment unless they are directly supervised by an adult. To help keep everyone safe, children should not use the bikes or scooters on the playground before or after school. This is an important safety measure to protect your children and the wider school community. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

SMITH Value Rewards – Friday

Each Friday, up to five children will have the opportunity to take home one of our SMITH Values animals to share with their family. Over the weekend, children can talk about how they have demonstrated one or more of our SMITH values:

- Safe Sophie Shrew
- Motivational Mollie Mole
- Inclusive Iggy Inchworm
- Team Toby Toad
- Happy Hollie Hare

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to recognise, celebrate and share the ways in which they demonstrate our SMITH values at school and at home. The teddy should be returned to school with your child the following Monday, to be passed on another child the following week.

Class Mascots Monday

Once the classes are formally divided towards the end of the Autumn term, each week one child will take home our class mascot and their Adventure Diary. We would love families to add photographs, drawings, pictures or a few sentences about something special they have done together. This could be a day out, a walk to the park, visiting family or simply enjoying a special activity together. The diary should be returned to school with your child the following Monday, so they can share their adventure with the class. This provides a valuable opportunity for children to talk about their experiences, develop confidence and strengthen their communication and language skills.

Key Dates for the Autumn Term

Please find below important dates for the term ahead:

Family Stay and Play

**children must be supervised by their parent/carers*

Every Tuesday 3:15 – 4pm	Outdoor exploration starting 15.09.2026 ending 20.10.26
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Parent Workshops

Thursday 24 th September 2026	Monster Phonics Online Parent Workshop 9:45 until 11am
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Dress up Days

Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Superhero Dress Up Day
Friday 9 th October 2026	Hello Yellow (wear a yellow item)

Stay and Play Sessions

Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Halloween Theme 2-3pm
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INSET Day

Friday 23 rd October 2026	School closed
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Upcoming Trip and Visitors

Lollipop Lady and Road Safety	Thursday 22 nd October
Nursery Rhyme 'Surprise' Visitor	Wednesday 4 th November
Cinema Trip	November date TBC
Church Walk & Posting a Letter to Santa	December date will be weather dependent

A letter containing further information about upcoming trips and visitors will be shared shortly. We always endeavour to keep the cost of enrichment experiences as low as possible. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us provide these valuable opportunities for the children.

We are delighted to be the first part of your child's journey at SMITH and look forward to watching them grow, learn and flourish throughout their time with us. We are excited to work in partnership with you to make their Reception year a happy, memorable and successful start to their school journey.

The Reception Team