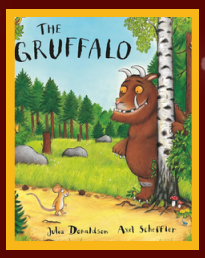
EYFS CURRICULUM NEWS
AUTUMN TERM 1 2026
'AMAZING ME!'



As mini learners we will be exploring and understanding ourselves and our families. We will discuss how each individual is unique and that we are all valued. We will be identifying our emotions and discussing how to help ourselves and each other when our emotions can become too much for us, and those around us. Within this we will look at why we use the Fantastic Four in school and how agreeing on how we will behave in Donaldson to ensure that we can all be happy and safe in school and the change in routines. This will be our class charter. We will also link our changes to the seasonal changes taking place around us. We will use some seasonal stories such as Farmer Duck, Rosie's Walk and The Little Red Hen. These reinforces our learning on Harvest time. We will also use early writing and mark making to practice our names and those of our families and friends. Enrichment activities this term include preparing and eating an Autumn soup. Taking part in whole school assembly for Harvest Festival and the food collection for local charities.

English - As mini readers and writers we will explore and share a variety of books and stories, some familiar, some new, to help us develop an understanding and feel secure with new routines and experiences. Classic tales connected to our Donaldson identity will be shared, including Monkey Puzzle and the Gruffalo. Starting school can be, for some a difficult time, and we aim to listen and talk through our thoughts and feelings around these new changes. We will link the Worry Monster with our zones of regulation to help children communicate these feelings. We will work together to create short stories through scribed stories, ensuring that we also develop good listening and attention skills and turn taking behavior.

The children will participate in games and tasks that support good listening skills, identifying sounds in the environment and early phonetic sounds in words. Games such as I-Spy and Ms Horn says (Simon says). Once transitional activities and assessments have been completed, we will start to explore phonetic sound knowledge through our daily Read Write Inc scheme. We learn letters as individual sounds and how to write them. Some children will already be able to segment the sounds written in words to read words in print, and those children will be encouraged to use sound blending books at home as their first reading books. Children are encouraged to write new sounds and use Read write Inc handwriting phrases to help with letter formations.

Maths - As mini mathematicians we will learn to sort items in to groups and recognise numbers. We aim to develop our verbal reasoning skills and our mathematical language, such "same", "different", "more" or "less". We identify patterns and compare and spot shapes in the environment. We will also become familiar with the calendar, including days of the week, months of the year and the seasons.

RE and PSHE - as mini thinkers the children will begin to look at creation stories and how to feel and be part of a community. They will explore how we are all part of different communities, with different beliefs and ideas. We will share traditions and look at different celebrations, both in school and in our homes. This term the children will develop new friendships and routines and begin to operate as individuals in the classroom. They will be encouraged to explore all areas of the classroom and share their learning with others, during either show and tell sessions or by reviewing their activities on Tapestry, the interactive learning journal system.

PE – as mini atheletes, Mr Deverall will be introducing different ways to move your body and ways of staying safe and following instructions in team games and individual challenges. We continually build fine motor control through activities of threading, cutting, weaving, and playdough activities. Putting on our own jumpers and coats – attempting zips and buttons by ourselves. Developing muscle tone to put pencil pressure on paper and showing preference for dominant hand.

Expressive Arts and Design – as mini artists there will be Autumn colour scavenger hunts and Autumn observations to recognise the changing season. Days in the garden will involve preparing for Winter and creating safe spaces for nature, as the weather changes. We will explore our individuality by making collages of ourselves and investigate the different creative resources available to the children in class. We will further enhance our listening skills by trying to hear and copy different rhythms, whether that be through body percussions, such as clapping and stamping feet, or through the use of simple percussion instruments. We will obviously be encouraging the children to learn and enjoy simple songs and nursery rhymes in our carpet and circle times.