



The Little Leaf

EARLY DAYS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER



Both our Hedgehogs and Owls classrooms will be focussing on **Autumn** for the month of October and enjoying our wonderful outdoor surroundings.

Owl Adventures:

This month our **Core Books** are Owl Babies and The Leaf Thief. Owl Babies is a much-loved classic and the children always enjoy sharing their understanding of the nursery day when responding to the baby owls' anxiety with reassurance such as: "Their Mummy will come back at the end!" The Leaf Thief supports the children to explain their understanding of Autumn as they begin to understand that Autumn means the leaves will be falling from the trees - not stolen!

Our main learning around **Autumn** will come from being outside in the incredible surrounding woodland: the children will have discussions on their walks around the village about the changing seasons and what they observe. We have already enjoyed lots of conker and acorn themed activities, and we will continue to use these wonderful natural resources in our maths and creative activities.

The afternoons in Owls are self-directed play alongside a particular focus based on our curriculum areas. There are Expressive Creators, Book and Cook, Mini Science, Amazing Animals and Curious Investigators. The children who will be going to Big School next September will also take part in a specific group time session run by Heather, our qualified teacher. These focus on early mathematics skills, social skills and some very early phonics work: we use the nursery Monster Phonics programme to ensure we are providing a developmentally appropriate foundation in phonics. This is a nursery-specific programme that is tailored to children of this age: examples of the activities will be sent to you alongside photos from the group times.

During October we will also be talking about **Diwali**, which takes place on the 20th October. By marking these occasions we aim for the children to develop a sense of respect and appreciation for different cultures and traditions, and it also provides opportunities for the children to develop a sense of curiosity and interest in the world around them.



Please do ensure coats and wellies are labelled: this really helps us get ready and be outside enjoying our walks as early as possible. The children are still learning how to find their pegs and

sometimes coats end up on the wrong one - we find this happens less and less as the year goes on but it's very helpful to have a name on the item in the meantime, and means we don't keep you waiting at pick-up longer than needed whilst we search!

You will notice that there are wooden discs outside the door with the children's names on: please do encourage your child to find their name and pop it in Mr. Crab: this is to both support the children to recognise their name and reinforce the message that they belong. Belonging is a central element to emotional security and therefore learning so we try to provide as many opportunities as possible to see that each child belongs in Owls Class and we wouldn't want this class without them!

During the nursery day, we reinforce to the children that it is only adults who open gates throughout the nursery site. We understand that the children are often keen to do this themselves - particularly once they've mastered the mechanism - but we would really appreciate your support in reinforcing this message to the children so we can ensure the gates remain shut during busy pick-up times. Many thanks in advance.

Hedgehog Happenings:

We have really enjoyed getting to know the children in Hedgehogs and seeing them settle. They have all started creating a lovely bond with their key person and staff have got to know well the children's interests and routines. We have enjoyed going for our daily walks, exploring messy play using paint, shaving foam and gloop and exploring the room with all the new toys.

This month, we are looking forward to our woodland walks, running through the leaves, feeding the birds, and making the most of our surrounding area. Our sensory tray will be filled with textured resources such as pinecones, coloured leaves, and conkers for the children to explore. Creative activities include finger painting trees in autumn colours and making hedgehog pictures using forks and paint to create different marks. We will also create a woodland sensory area with natural objects and materials, encouraging children to explore a variety of senses and textures.



at-a-glance

October Themes

Hedgehogs
Autumn

Owls
Autumn

Reminders

Hedgehogs: Please name and label all clothing and outdoor and please bring in a waterproof all in one for walks.

Birthdays

Layth, Mason, Jack T-P,
Josie, Teya, Jack R.,
Merryn, Emily and Hazel

Enjoy your special day!!



Owls' Story Time

If you would like to come into Owls to read the children a story, please let us know (we can work times around you). It is such a lovely occasion and the children really enjoy it.

Seasonal Wear

With the weather so changeable, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately each day and with the necessary spare clothes.



Hedgehogs Core Songs

Big Red Tractor
Incy Wincy Spider



Owls Core Books

