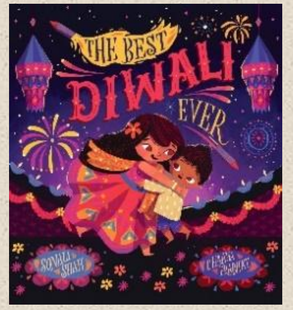
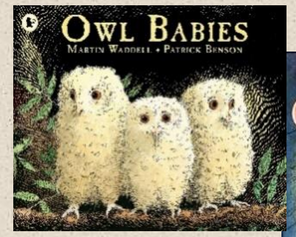
Reception – Autumn term 2 Curriculum Newsletter

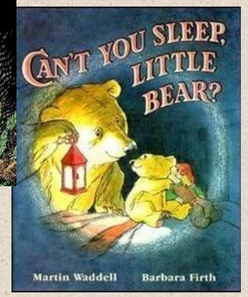
Key books this term

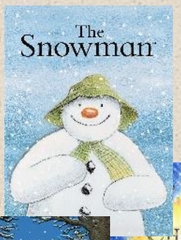




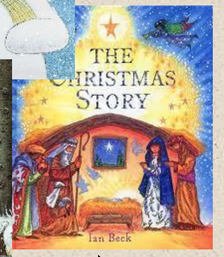












Winter– Week 1

Key Vocabulary:

Firework: A device containing chemicals that burn or explore to produce colourful lights, sounds or effects.
Display: A public show of fireworks, usually choreographed or arranged for an event.
Celebration: A joyful event marking a special occasion, often featuring fireworks.

Key Questions?

What are fireworks made of?
How do fireworks work?
Why do people use fireworks?
What are some different types of fireworks?
How do fireworks light up the sky?
How are fireworks used in different countries?
What holidays or celebrations often include fireworks?
When and where were fireworks invited?
How have fireworks changed over time?

Winter – Week 2

Key Vocabulary:

Remembrance – remembering people who have died in wars.
Poppy – a red flower worn to show respect and remembrance.
Soldier – a person who fights in a war
Peace – when there is no fighting or war.
War – when countries or groups fight against each other.

Key Questions?

What is Remembrance Day?
Why do people wear poppies?
Who do we remember on Remembrance Day?
How can we show respect to people who helped keep us safe?
What does it mean to be brave?
Why do we have a two minutes' silence?
How can we help make peace today?

We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Week 3

Key Vocabulary:

Diwali – The Hindu festival of lights.
Festival – a special time of celebration
Light – brightness that helps us see; symbol of good.
Diva lamp – a small oil lamp lit during Diwali
Rangoli – colourful patterns made on the floor using powder, rice, or flowers.

Key Questions?

What is Diwali?
Who celebrates Diwali?
How do people celebrate Diwali?
Why do people light diva lamps?
Who are Rama and Sita?
What does light mean in the Diwali story?
What special foods or clothes might people have at Diwali?
How do families decorate their homes for Diwali?
Why is Diwali called the Festival of Lights?

Light & Dark – Week 4 & 5

Key Vocabulary:

Light – helps us to see; comes from the sun, lamps, or torches.
Dark – when there is no light
Shadow – a dark shape made when light is blocked
Sun – the biggest natural source of light
Moon – shines at night by reflecting the sun's light
Star – a tiny light in the night sky
Day – the time when it is light outside
Night – the time when it is dark outside

Key Questions?

What gives us light?
What happens when it gets dark?
How do we use light in our homes?
What makes a shadow?
What can we see in the sky at night?
How does light help us?
How do animals behave when it's dark?
Why is light important?

Christmas – Week 6 & 7

Key Vocabulary:

Christmas – A Christian festival celebrating the birth of jesus
Nativity – the story of when Jesus was born
Jesus – the baby Christians believe is the Son of God
Manger – where baby Jesus lay after he was born
Stable – the place where Jesus was born
Bethlehem – the town where Jesus was born
Advent – the time before Christmas when Christians get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth
Gift – something given to show love and kindness
Celebration – a special time of joy and sharing

Key Questions?

What is Christmas and why do Christians celebrate it?
Who was baby Jesus?
Where was Jesus born?
What gifts did the Wise Men bring?
Why is Christmas special to Christians?
What special things do people do at Christmas?
How do we show kindness and love at Christmas?
What makes Christmas special for you?

Physical development

Fine motor:

Name writing



Every morning all the children will come in and find their names, following the arrows to ensure they start their letters in the correct place and have the correct formation.

Kinetic Letters

We are learning handwriting through the Kinetic Letters programme. Kinetic Letters focuses on building strong bodies and strong habits so children can become confident, fluent writers.

This term, children will continue to strengthen the small muscles in their hands and fingers to improve control and coordination. They will practise using tools such as scissors, pencils and paintbrushes with increasing accuracy.

Gross motor This term, children will explore dance through movement, rhythm and expression. They will learn to move their bodies in different ways — stretching, jumping, turning and balancing — to respond to music and sounds. The focus will be on developing coordination, spatial awareness and control while working and with others. Children will explore how to express ideas and feelings through dance, creating simple sequences and routines. They will also build confidence performing in front of others and learn to appreciate and discuss different styles of movement.We will practice these skills during PE sessions on a Wednesday.



Self care

Encourage your children to dress themselves — doing up shoes, zips, buttons, belts.

Eating — using cutlery, opening lunch boxes and food bags. Hygiene — cleaning teeth, brushing hair, toileting.

AT HOME:

- Encourage activities that build strength and control (climbing, crawling, playdough, Lego).
- Give plenty of chances for drawing, colouring and mark making.
- When your child writes, remind them to start letters in the right place and form them the Kinetic Letters way.
- Praise effort — developing strong writing habits takes time.
- Pencil grips- We will be teaching the children to write using a tripod grip- please encourage this at home.



Literacy- Reading and Writing



Phonics

At Hall Meadow we follow a phonics scheme called 'Read, Write, Inc.' The big focus is to help the children to be able to read by Christmas. We will teach the children key skills over the Autumn term to help them to achieve this.



CVC words

Children will practise reading CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words such as *cat, dog,* and *pen*. They will use their phonics knowledge to blend sounds together and read words independently. Activities will include flashcards, word games and simple sentences to build confidence and fluency in early reading.



Segmenting

Children will use the Read Write Inc programme to practise segmenting words into individual sounds to support spelling and writing. They will break words like *dog* into /d/ /o/ /g/ and write the corresponding letters.



Sounds

Children will continue to learn phonics through the Read Write Inc programme, recognising sounds (phonemes) and learning to blend them to read simple words. They will practise segmenting sounds to spell and write words, building confidence in reading and writing short captions and sentences. Daily activities will include listening to stories, practising letter formation and developing fluency through guided reading and writing tasks.

Drawing Club

Children will develop fine motor skills, creativity, and storytelling through drawing activities linked to books. Stories this term will include *Owl Babies, The Quiet Little Firework, Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* and *The Nativity Story*. Children will illustrate scenes, characters, and events from the stories, exploring colour, shape and expression while building confidence in mark-making and visual storytelling.



AT HOME:

- Share books daily — read to your child and talk about the pictures.
- Practise recognising their name in print.
- Listen to your child blend sounds into words when they are ready.
- Help them practise writing their name with the correct letter formation.
- Offer fun fine motor activities to strengthen hands: threading, playdough, Lego, using pegs and scissors.
- Talk about your day together and encourage full sentences.

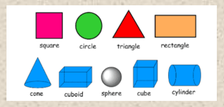
Mathematics

Changes within 5



Children will explore how numbers change when we add to or take away from a group within 5. They will use practical resources and stories to show "one more" and "one less," building number sense and understanding of simple addition and subtraction. Hands-on activities will help them see how amounts increase and decrease.

2D and 3D shapes



Children will explore and name 2D shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) and 3D shapes (cube, cuboid, cone, sphere, cylinder). They will describe shapes using words like *sides, corners, faces,* and *edges*. Through play and building, they will sort, match and find shapes in the environment.

Spatial Awareness





Children will explore position, direction, and shape in space. They will use language such as *under, over, next to, behind* and *in front of* to describe where objects are. Through play and movement, they will develop spatial awareness and begin to understand how shapes and objects fit and move in space.



Number Bonds to 5

Children will learn all the ways to make 5 using practical activities and objects (e.g. 2 and 3, 4 and 1). They will explore number pairs through songs, games, and visual models like five frames. This helps them build a strong understanding of how numbers combine and split within 5.

AT HOME:

- Play simple number games with amounts up to 5.
- Use songs and rhymes that involve adding or taking away (Five Little Ducks, 5 Current Buns)
- Look for 3D and 2D shapes around the home and outside.
- Talk about position words (e.g. on top, behind, next to) during play and routines.

PSED





We follow a scheme called SCARF to focus on PSHE, which links to PSED in EYFS. Our focus this term is Valuing Difference.



Children will learn to recognise what makes them unique and celebrate their own strengths and interests. They will talk about their families, likes and differences, learning that everyone is special in their own way. Through stories, circle times and play, children will develop confidence, kindness and respect for others.



Children will explore and celebrate the similarities and differences between families and homes. They will talk about who lives in their home, the types of homes people have and how families can look different. Through discussion, stories, and drawing activities, children will develop respect, understanding, and appreciation for diversity.

AT HOME:

- Look at family photos together and discus who lives in your home. Encourage your child to create a picture of their family.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore light and dark through creative activities, such as making lanterns, shadow drawings and night-time scenes. They will also learn about seasonal celebrations, expressing their ideas through art, collage and craft. These activities help children develop creativity, fine motor skills and an understanding of different cultural traditions.

DT Children will learn to prepare a simple vegetable soup, developing skills like chopping, stirring and following instructions safely. They will explore taste, texture and seasonal ingredients. After making the soup, they will design packaging for it, thinking about colours, labels and presentation. These activities support creativity, practical skills and understanding of healthy food.



Music

Children will explore sounds, rhythm, and pitch using their voices and musical instruments. They will learn simple songs, experiment with making different sounds and respond to music through movement and listening activities. These experiences support listening skills, creativity and confidence in performing.

AT HOME: Practise singing the Wriggly Nativity songs ☺.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

RE We will begin our religious studies by looking at the Nativity story. The Nativity story is important to Christians because it tells of the birth of Jesus, who they believe is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.



The natural world

Children will explore light and dark, noticing how daylight changes during the day and across seasons. They will learn about sources of light (sun, lamps, torches) and observe shadows. Learn about nocturnal animals that are active in the dark. Through hands-on activities, stories and creative play, they will investigate how light helps us see and how darkness affects what we can do.

People and communities:

Discuss our class, our families and our school community.

We will also introduce the children to democracy (choosing stories)





Past and Present

Children will explore their own family history and learn about different generations. They will create simple family trees, talk about family members from the past and present and notice how families change over time. Activities will include drawing, discussion, and sharing stories to develop a sense of identity and understanding of history.

Forest School

We will be continuing to explore the outdoor environment, developing curiosity and confidence in nature. Our Forest School sessions will focus on teamwork, problem solving and developing physical skills like balance and coordination.

AT HOME: Talk to your children about the world around them and their place in it.

Term Dates

17th and 18th November — Parents Evening
12th November — PACT Doughnut Sale
17th-23rd November — Book Fayre
1st December — Owl visit
1st December — PACT Wreath making
3rd December — PACT Elfridges
10th December- Christmas jumper and Christmas Dinner
11th December — Mufti (bottle donation for PACT)
14th and 15th December — Nativity performance
18th December — Carols on the playground
18th December — Christmas Party afternoon
18th December — PACT bottle sale