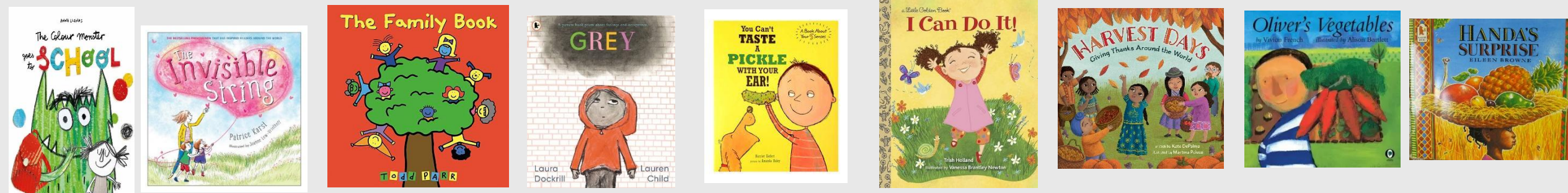


Autumn 1 in Oak Class:

Key Themes: Me! - Exploring our emotions and senses. Harvest – finding out where our food comes from.

Key Texts Include:



A very warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families. We are delighted to welcome you to St Alban's School and are looking forward to getting to know you and working together as your child begins this exciting new chapter.

During the first few weeks of Reception, our main priority is to build positive, trusting relationships with every child. We will take time to get to know each child as an individual; their interests, personalities, strengths and needs, while helping them to feel happy, safe and secure in their new environment. Before beginning our more structured phonics and maths sessions, it is important that children feel a sense of belonging and are comfortable and confident within their new classroom. This time also allows us to gently establish the routines, boundaries and expectations that will support children to become increasingly confident and independent learners.

This term, our learning will focus on exploring our senses and emotions. Through playful and practical experiences, children will explore how they use their senses to discover and understand their new school environment and the world around them. We will also support children to recognise, name and talk about different emotions, helping them to understand their own feelings and begin to recognise how others may be feeling. These are important foundations for developing positive relationships, self-regulation and successful learning.

Within this learning, we will also explore Harvest Festival, providing lots of opportunities to use our senses to investigate the colours, sounds, smells, tastes and textures associated with harvest time. We will begin to explore where our food comes from, how it is grown and gathered, and why we celebrate Harvest. Through this, the children will begin to think about the importance of food, the people who help to produce it and how we can share and support others within our community.

Supporting Learning at Home

You can support your child at home by talking about feelings and emotions, noticing what you can see, hear, smell, touch and taste when you are out and about, and talking about where our food comes from. Look out for signs of harvest and seasonal change together, share stories and rhymes, and encourage your child to become increasingly independent with everyday tasks such as dressing, looking after their belongings and tidying away.

Phonics

Once the children are settled and secure in their new routines, we will begin our Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) phonics programme. Children will learn phonemes (the sounds we hear in words) and the graphemes (letters or groups of letters) that represent them. This includes digraphs, where two letters represent one sound, such as *sh*, *ch* and *th*. Children will learn to blend sounds together to read words and use their growing phonics knowledge to support both reading and writing.

Each week, your child will bring home a phonics reading book carefully matched to the sounds they have been learning in school. Please support your child by reading this book with them five times each week. Re-reading the same book is really valuable, as it helps children develop fluency, confidence and a growing enjoyment of reading.

Maths

This half term, our maths learning will be supported through practical, hands-on activities and purposeful play. Our initial focus will be on matching, sorting and comparing, encouraging children to notice similarities and differences and explain their thinking. We will explore size, mass and capacity and begin to investigate patterns within our environment. As the half term progresses, we will also introduce the numbers 1, 2 and 3, developing children's understanding of what each number represents rather than simply recognising or reciting numerals.

At home, you can support your child by noticing maths in everyday life - counting objects, sorting toys or washing, comparing which is bigger, smaller, heavier or lighter, spotting patterns and talking about numbers you see when you are out and about.

A Few Things to Remember

Please ensure that all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name - even when things are labelled, they have an amazing ability to go missing in Reception!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to me.

Kind regards,
Mrs Evetts