Autumn 2 in Oak Class:

St Alban's C of E Aided Primary School
Inspired to make a difference in God's world with excellence and love

What a wonderful start to Reception we have had! The children have settled into life in Oak Class so well, and it has been lovely to see their confidence, independence and friendships blossom. We are incredibly proud of how they have embraced new experiences and become increasingly familiar with our classroom routines.

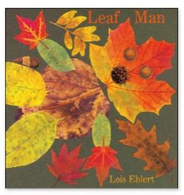
Our learning this half term will begin by observing autumnal changes in our environment, including the changing weather, falling leaves and shorter days. This will lead us into exploring light and dark, investigating different light sources and shadows through practical, hands-on experiences. We will also learn about nocturnal animals, discovering which creatures are active at night and how some animals prepare for winter through hibernation.

Fireworks will provide an additional exciting opportunity to explore light, alongside colour and sound, through creative activities and experiences. We will also have important discussions about firework and sparkler safety. We will then learn about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, which is celebrated on Sunday 8th November this year. Through stories and creative experiences, the children will discover Diwali traditions, including creating colourful rangoli patterns and making diyas, while developing an understanding of the significance of light in different celebrations.

As Christmas approaches, we will turn our attention to Christmas Around the World, learning about the Christmas story and how different countries and cultures celebrate. We will compare traditions and customs, encouraging children to appreciate the similarities and differences between celebrations around the world.

Key Texts:

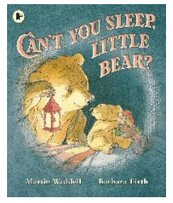
Discovering autumnal changes in our environment:

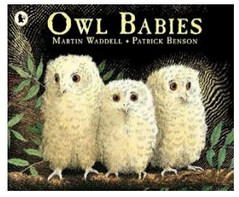


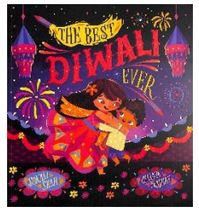




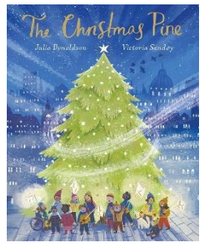
Light and Dark – Light Sources, Shadows, Nocturnal Animals and Celebrations of Light:

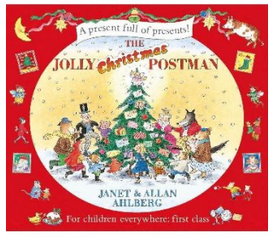


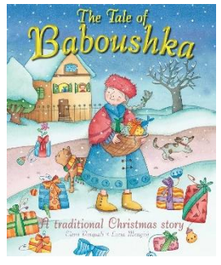




Christmas Around the World – Finding out how Christmas is celebrated in different countries and cultures.







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Phonics

This half term, we will continue progressing through our Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) programme, introducing new graphemes, including digraphs (two letters making one sound, such as *sh* and *ch*) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound, such as *igh*), while strengthening children's blending and segmenting skills. We will also continue developing their ability to recognise harder-to-read words and read simple sentences.

Children will continue to apply their growing phonics knowledge through Drawing Club, an exciting approach that develops imagination, vocabulary and early writing skills through stories, drawing and creative challenges. Children are encouraged to write at their own individual stage, whether this involves recording initial sounds, writing simple CVC words (such as *cat* and *dog*), or beginning to compose short captions and sentences.

Regular reading at home makes a huge difference to children's progress, giving them a valuable opportunity to embed and consolidate the phonics skills they learn at school. Please aim to support your child in reading their school reading book, carefully matched to the sounds they have learnt, five times each week, recording each session on PageTicker. Alongside this, we encourage you to enjoy a variety of other books and stories together to nurture a love of reading.

Maths

Our maths learning will continue to develop children's understanding through practical, hands-on activities and purposeful play. We will focus on building a secure understanding of numbers to 5, exploring different ways to represent and compare quantities, finding one more and one less, and investigating how numbers can be made up of smaller parts.

We will also explore circles, triangles and shapes with four sides, encouraging children to recognise, describe and compare their properties, and identify shapes in the world around them. Throughout our learning, we will encourage children to use mathematical vocabulary, explain their thinking and develop their problem-solving skills.

At home, you can support your child by counting everyday objects, playing simple number games, finding one more or one less, and spotting shapes in your surroundings. These everyday experiences help children build confidence and make meaningful connections with their learning in school.

A Few Things to Remember

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please ensure your child brings a suitable coat to school each day. We will continue to enjoy outdoor learning in all weathers, so warm, practical clothing is essential. If providing gloves, please ensure your child can put them on independently; otherwise, we kindly ask that you provide mittens instead.

Please ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name to help us reunite any misplaced items with their owners!

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

Kind regards,
Mrs Evetts