



Autumn Term 2026 Learning Letter – Starfish Class

COMMUNICATION In our Language and Communication lessons, we will focus on: Communication in sentences using verbs, including the use of communication boards and cards Asking for what we need using total communication Listening to and reading fictional stories Describing characters and animals Exploring how we recount events including use of the past tense We are going to be: • Listening to and understanding stories • Taking part in shared activities • Comparing and contrasting • Describing what happened after an event • Drawing and describing a favourite character • Taking part in drama activities playing a role • Using games and cards to support communication • Supporting language using BSL signing • Using Colourful Semantics to support learning sentence structure Ways you can help your child: • <i>Talk about activities you have done each day, review what you have done and experienced together</i> • <i>Read fiction books together. Tell and read stories and talk about the different animals or characters in the story.</i> • <i>Ask and answer questions with your child</i> • <i>Watch cartoons and discuss what happened</i> • <i>Practice joining ideas together with a conjunction such as AND or THEN</i>	FUNCTIONAL SKILLS ENGLISH: Phonics will be taught from our scheme of work Rocket Phonics on a regular basis with a direct teaching session working on individual needs and will incorporate reading and spelling sessions alongside writing and vocabulary practice. We will also have sessions for reading for pleasure and our library slot. This term we will be focusing on: <u>Fiction Focus:</u> -The Pig in the Pond by Martin Waddell -Super Swooper Dinosaur by Martin Waddell -Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell <u>Pre-1914 Literature and Plays:</u> -Alice in Wonderland -Peter Pan MATHS: In our Maths Lessons we will learn about: <u>Number -Number & Place Value</u> --Identifying, representing and estimating numbers using different representations (inc. the number line) -Counting in steps of 3, 4 and 8 (from 0, from any given number, forward and backward) -Identifying 10 more and 10 less (from a given number) <u>Geometry and Measures: Position and Direction</u> -Describing direction and movement – straight line, quarter, half and three-quarter turns...link to right angles (self, others, mathematical objects, robots - clockwise and anti-clockwise) -Describing position on a 2D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant -Plotting specified points on a 2D grid in the first quadrant	SKILLS FOR LIFE Throughout term we will be working on the skills for life to support towards our personal goals for independence. <u>Life skills:</u> Shopping from a shopping list, locate items on shelves, pushing a trolley, handing over money <u>Food Tech:</u> Dietary requirements: understanding what types of food our body needs and how to make simple snacks and sandwiches with all the necessary food groups WORKING WORLD - Humanities: <u>Geography:</u> Desert Biomes – Africa vs Middle east – economic trade <u>History</u> The timeline of events in the Second World War Technologies of aircraft at the time of battle of Britain How the Battle of Britain became a turning point for the war Impacts of the battle of Britain on the lives of people at home e.g. evacuees, air raid shelters WORKING WORLD - Science: <u>Health</u> Exploring famous nurses and their contributions to science, Healthy eating and being unwell, first aid and health checks, effects of recreational drugs <u>Forces</u> Exploring forces to make inventions work, parachutes, gliders, elastic band vehicles, Describing motion, balanced and unbalanced forces CREATIVITY: <u>DT:</u> Designing and making torches <u>Music:</u>	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT To reinforce and deepen learning we link our personal development with our life skills topics and lessons will be set aside to prepare for cultural festivals or celebrations. <u>PSHE:</u> Self awareness – Developing skills for learning, attitudes for learning and setting goals for own learning Self-care, support and safety – Accidents and Risk including medicinal drugs <u>Cultural Development:</u> Make your Mark (including International Dot Day) <u>Religious Education:</u> The Christian Church Calendar. Key features: significant dates in the Christian year, why they are meaningful and how they are celebrated or marked e.g. Christmas, lent, Easter, Harvest, Pentecost DIGITAL LITERACY / ICT: Using tech to communicate – using iMovie Using YouTube safely Branching Database – asking and answering yes and no questions <u>Connected world:</u> Online relationships – identifying ways we can use tech to communicate with others, importance of asking permission before doing some things on line Health, wellbeing and lifestyle – rules for using tech safely, Ways you can help your child: • <i>Model the safe use of email</i> • <i>Discuss email scams and explain that people online must be trusted before we send them personal information</i> • <i>Support them understanding the concept of personal space and respect it at home.</i>
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• Support your child to use expressive language and/or signs to communicate their needs/wants • Encourage your child to use the local lending library to find fiction books they enjoy.	Ways you can help your child: • Practise counting groups of items eg how many crisps/ pieces of apple on the plate. • Introduce your child to number lines by counting as you go up stairs • Practise counting in steps from 0, including counting in 2s • Given any number eg. a house number or a bus number, ask your child what is ten more and ten less • Encourage your child to give and receive directions including the concept of half turns, quarter turns to the left and right, going straight and going backwards. • Use a bun tin or an ice cube tray and ask your child to place a toy following your instructions, eg 2 along and 2 up.	Composing: using music technology, to capture, change and combine sounds. Ways you can help your child: • Support your child in being independent – including developing the motor skills for crushing or mashing a banana, spreading butter on toast etc • Encourage your child to have an interest in the world around them eg by looking out of the window, looking at a map of the local area etc • Encourage creativity by allowing your child to play with musical instruments such as a recorder or toy piano • Discuss simple electrical items such as torches at home and encourage safe use of battery powered items. • Visit museums to develop your child's understanding of history • Encourage your child to eat a healthy diet and discuss the health benefits of eating each food group	• Engage with actively caring for the environment at home, eg by recycling, putting out bird food etc • Encourage your child to take part in and understand family traditions according to your family's culture • Encourage your child to brush teeth and hair (supported or not), and maintain a personal self-care routine • Point out local Christian landmarks eg churches, cathedrals • Support and encourage your child to ask for support if they need it, whether verbally, signing or using pictures • Have clear boundaries at home around safe use of technology • Encourage a healthy balance between screen time and time for play/exercise.
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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

PE: Team Games: Balloon Volleyball

Swimming

Dance: toy themed dance

Ways you can help your child:

- Access Go noodle, Joe Wicks and wake and shake exercises at home <https://www.gonoodle.com/> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKlid_e-loE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og_f0_QO_Ko
- Go for walks, bike ride & scooter rides in local area
- Cosmic Yoga & Meditation - <https://cosmickids.com/>
- Visit soft play, playgrounds, clip & climb, roller staking, Bounce, swimming pools
- Ensure your child is getting the right amount of sleep, including a good bedtime routine with down time away from technology and TV at least half an hour before sleep time.