



# Finches

Autumn Term 2

November/December 2023

## Welcome back to Autumn Term 2!

A warm, Autumnal welcome back to everyone after half term. We hope you managed to have a relaxing week and that you enjoyed a break from the school routine. We are excited to be back with you this term and are looking forward to lots of stimulating learning opportunities over the next two months, including Autumn Welly Walks, Guy Fawkes, Maths Week, Armistice Day, Nursery Rhyme Week, Friendship Week, Diwali and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who collected Autumn treasures and returned treasure chests—we will make sure children get these back again. We have enjoyed looking at the photos posted on Tapestry of your own Welly Walks and also sharing our Autumn treasures with our friends. Another big thank you to those of you who completed the Scarecrow Trail organised by our amazing PTA—what a brilliant variety of entries around the estate. We hope you loved the children's 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'!

We had so many highlights during our first term together and we know these will continue this term. We hope that you are all able to access and enjoy the learning updates on Tapestry. We do post regular updates of your child's learning experiences and progress so please do try to log in regularly. We love to see your likes and comments on our posts, and your own comments and observations too.

Please take note of the dates section on the next page and keep your eye on the school newsletter and Tapestry posts to ensure you don't miss anything. We always endeavour to keep you informed in good time of events, activities, but sometimes in a busy school environment dates may change. We ask for your understanding if events cannot take place or need to be re-arranged.

As always, if you'd like to talk to one of us about anything, please let us know and we can arrange a time to see you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Reminders

**Coats:** Please remember to bring a coat for your child. Coats should be warm and have hoods so outdoor play is not unnecessarily interrupted by colder weather or rain.

**Wellies:** You are very welcome to keep a pair of wellies at Nursery if you would like to. Please make sure they are clearly named.

**Water bottles:** Your child can help themselves to drinking water throughout the session so please remember to supply a named water bottle.

**Labels:** Please remember to keep checking all items of clothing and any bags or bottles are named. Please double check labels applied in Autumn 1 in case they now need re-doing. Thank you.

**Jewellery:** Jewellery should not be worn at school. Please note that only stud earrings should be worn at any time.

**Spare clothes:** Please provide a change of clothes, just incase your child needs to change at Nursery.

**Library:** Please bring book bags and library books to Nursery on a Monday. Each week your child will bring home a book from school to share with you at home.

## Starting School

A reminder to you all that your children are due to start Reception in September 2024 and applications for school places open on 5th November 2023.

If you have not yet registered with Bracknell Forest, please make sure you do as your child must be registered in order to apply for a school place. Please visit [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/applyforprimary](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/applyforprimary)

Obviously we would love to be your school of choice, but please be aware there is no link between Nursery admissions/attendance and the main school admissions. Everyone must make a separate application to start at JPCE in the Reception class.

You are able to select three school preferences—please note this is preference only. We strongly advise you to choose three schools you would be happy to send your child to. Make the most of the opportunity to visit and tour schools over the coming weeks.

You must return your application on time. The deadline for all applications is midday 15th January 2024.

School offers are due to be sent out mid-April 2024.



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**Autumn Term 2: November/December 2023**

## What can I do at home?

### Self Help Skills

Encourage children to be as independent as possible, as much as you possibly can.

Do they know what their personal belongings look like?  
Can they find their coat without help? Their shoes? Their wellies?

Can they hang their coat up? Can they put their shoes/wellies in the right place leaving them tidy?

Can they put one arm into a sleeve of their coat? Can they put the rest of their coat on by themselves?

Can they try to fasten the zip or buttons on jackets and coats? (Fastening is a trickier skill and we would not expect this to be entirely independent at this stage, but we would expect all children to know what to do, to 'have a go' and to increasingly keep trying before asking for help.

Can they put shoes/wellies onto the right feet? Do they know how their straps or buckles work when putting on and taking off their footwear?

Challenge—if your child can already do these things, can they put on their own socks yet?

### Reading Autumn 2—Book List

*Leaf Man, Lois Ehlert*

*Rama and Sita—The Story of Diwali, Malachy Doyle*  
*Remember, Remember, The Fifth of November, Deborah Webb*

*A Day to Remember, Beth Esthm*  
*My Very First Nativity Play, Lois Rock*  
*The Christmas Story, the Bible*

### Nursery Rhyme Week 2023

*Jack and Jill*  
*Hickory Dickory Dock*  
*Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes*  
*Row Row Row Your Boat*  
*Wheels on the Bus*

## Important Dates—Autumn 2

**w/b Monday 6th November**—Maths Week

**Friday 10th November**—Wear a Number to School Day

**W/b Monday 13th November**—Nursery Rhyme Week

**W/b Monday 13th November**—Friendship Week

**Friday 17th November**—Be A Buddy Day, Non-uniform

**Monday 20th November**—PTA Non-uniform for Tombola

**W/b Monday 19th November**—Road Safety Week

**Weds 22nd—Fri 24th November** — Diwali workshops

**Fri 1st December**—Pause Day/Christingle

**Thurs 7th December**—Nursery Christmas Performance

**Friday 8th December**—Christmas Jumper Day

## Term Dates

**Thursday 14th December:** Nursery last day of term, normal time. *Please note that the rest of the school finish at 1.30pm on Friday 15th December.*

**Tuesday 2nd January:** INSET, School Closed

**Wednesday 3rd January:** School re-opens, Spring Term 1

**Monday 12th—Friday 16th February:** Spring half term

**Monday 19th February:** School re-opens, Spring Term 2

**Wednesday 27th March:** Nursery last day of term, normal time. *Please note that the rest of the school finish at 1.30pm on Thursday 28th March.*

**Monday 15th April:** School re-opens, Summer Term 1

**Monday 6th May:** Bank Holiday, School Closed

**Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May:** Summer half term

**Monday 3rd June:** School re-opens, Summer Term 2

**Wednesday 17th July:** Nursery last day of term.

*Please note, as usual, the rest of the school finish slightly later on Friday 19th July*



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## Nursery Autumn Term 2: Let's Celebrate

Week	Suggested Contexts for Learning	Upcoming Dates for Diary
Week 1	My Senses/Autumn Welly Walks Key text: 'Leaf Man' Themed art (Autumn, Leaf) Handwashing Cooking – melting Firework Safety	Parent Meetings Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> – <a href="#">BilinguaSing</a> Class 2 5 <sup>th</sup> November – Bonfire Night
Week 2	Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot Themed art (Fireworks, Poppy) Armistice Day and Remembrance Maths Week	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">BilinguaSing</a> Class 3 Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> - Wear a Number to School Day, Maths Week Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov - Armistice Day Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Diwali
Week 3	Whole School Friendship Week Nursery Rhyme Week 2023	Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> – <a href="#">BilinguaSing</a> Class 4 Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Be A Buddy Day, Non-Uniform Day
Week 4	Celebrating Diwali Key Text: 'The Story of Rama and Sita' Road Safety Week – helmets/balance bikes	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> - PTA Non-uniform for Tombola Donations Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> - <a href="#">BilinguaSing</a> Class 5 Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> - Diwali Dance Workshops
Week 5	Christmas Songs Key Text: The Christmas Story Pause Day	Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> – <a href="#">BilinguaSing</a> Class 6 Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – Pause Day
Week 6	Christmas Performance Christmas Craft	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> - Big Foot Christmas Show (PM) Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas Performance (AM and PM) Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
Week 7	Christmas Craft Christmas Cooking	Class Christmas Party tbc Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> - Nursery Stay & Play (Christmas Craft activity at drop off) Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> - Last day of term for Nursery, usual times

