



Finches

Autumn Term 2

November/December 2024

Welcome back to Autumn Term 2!

A very 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 Diwali, Guy Fawkes, Armistice Day, Nursery Rhyme Week, Friendship Week, Maths week and Christmas. We are also very excited to start Bilinguasing where everyone will have the opportunity to explore a variety of different Nursery rhymes and songs, both in English and Spanish!

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 red panda scarecrows!

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.

Miss Allen, Miss Beardsley, Miss Baker, Mrs Waites, Ms Csiki

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 in case 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 2025 and applications for school places open on 5th November 2024.

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

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 2025.

School offers are due to be sent out mid-April 2025.



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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

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

Twinkle, Twinkle
Old Macdonald
The Big Ship Sails
Incy Wincy Spider
5 Current Buns

Important Dates—Autumn 2

Tuesday 5th November—Bilinguasing starts

Friday 8th November—Scholastic Book Fair

W/b Monday 11th November—Nursery Rhyme Week

W/b Monday 11th November—Friendship Week

Tuesday 12th November—Wear Odd Socks Day

Friday 15th November—Be a Buddy Day, Non-uniform

W/B 18th November —Diwali dance workshop

Friday 22nd November—PTA Non-uniform for Tombola

Saturday 23rd November—Christmas Fair

Friday 29th November—Pause Day

Sunday 1st December—Reverse Advent starts

Wednesday 4th December—Nursery stay and Play

Thursday 12th December—Nursery Christmas Performance

Friday 13th December—Christmas Jumper Day

Term Dates

Thursday 19th December: Nursery last day of term, normal time. *Please note that the rest of the school finish at 1.30pm on Friday 20th December.*

Monday 6th January: INSET, School Closed

Tuesday 7th January: School re-opens, Spring Term 1

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February: Spring half term

Monday 24th February: School re-opens, Spring Term 2

Thursday 3rd April: Nursery last day of term, normal time. *Please note that the rest of the school finish at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March.*

Tuesday 22nd April: School re-opens, Summer Term 1

Monday 5th May: Bank Holiday, School Closed

Monday 26th May—Friday 30th May: Summer half term

Monday 2nd June: School re-opens, Summer Term 2

Wednesday 16th July: Nursery last day of term.

Please note, the rest of the school finish on Friday 18th July.



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Nursery Autumn Term 2: Let's Celebrate

Week	Suggested Contexts for Learning	Upcoming Dates for Diary
Week 1	Firework Safety Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot Cooking – melting Themed art (Fireworks, Diya lamps) Key text: The story of 'Rama and Sita' Celebrating Diwali	Thurs 31st Oct - Diwali Parent Meetings Tues 5 th Nov – BilinguaSing Class 1 Tues 5 th November – Bonfire Night
Week 2	Armistice Day and Remembrance Themed art (Poppies) Whole School Friendship Week Nursery Rhyme Week 2024	Tues 12 th Nov - BilinguaSing Class 2 Mon 11 th Nov - Armistice Day Tues 12 th Nov – Wear Odd Socks Fri 15 th Nov – Be Buddy Day, Non-uniform
Week 3	Listening skills: Rhyme Instruments Body Percussion	Tues 19 th Nov– BilinguaSing Class 3 W/B 18 th Nov - Diwali dance workshop Fri 22 nd Nov- PTA Non-uniform for Tombola Sat 23 rd Nov – Christmas Fair
Week 4	Maths week Pause Day	Tues 26 th Nov - BilinguaSing Class 4 Fri 29 th Nov – Pause Day
Week 5	Christmas Songs Key Text: The Christmas Story	Sun 1 st Dec – Reverse Advent starts Tues 3 rd Dec – BilinguaSing Class 5 Wed 4 th Dec - Nursery Stay & Play (Christmas Craft activity at drop off)
Week 6	Christmas Performance Christmas Craft	Thurs 12 th Dec - Nursery Christmas Performance (AM and PM) Fri 13 th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
Week 7	Christmas Craft Christmas Cooking	Class Christmas Party tbc Thurs 19 th Dec- Last day of term for Nursery, usual times

