

Teaching Team

Mrs Johnson (Mon-Wed)
Miss Jackson (Thrs-Fri)
but we will also be
supported by Mrs Smith
as well as everyone in
Preschool!

Alnwick Castle Class Newsletter – Autumn 1

Welcome to Alnwick Castle Class 2026!

We hope you and your family have had a lovely summer and you are now looking forward to the term ahead. This is our half-termly newsletter to tell you about our topic and what we will be learning. We will also keep you updated via Tapestry and for general school and class information including diary dates, please regularly check the school website (www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk).

Reminders

Tuesday - Forest School so please wear PE Kit and bring extra layers / waterproofs

Thursday - Please wear PE Kit with indoor / outdoor shoes

Friday - Celebration Assembly

Everyday please bring **water bottles, apply sun cream as necessary before school** and please make sure all uniform is clearly labelled.

Please bring in **wellies and waterproofs** so we can enjoy the outdoors no matter what the weather does!

Areas of learning

In literacy we will begin our phonics journey with activities such as listening out for environmental sounds and creating our own instrumental sound. This helps us to practise sound discrimination which is very important as we begin to read and write. We will then explore rhyme, rhythm and alliteration before we begin to orally segment and blend words. This is something we look forward to talking through in more detail at our literacy parents meeting. Of course, we will be sharing a range of songs, stories and non-fiction books too!

As young mathematicians, we will practise counting and recognising numbers to 5, sorting into groups, comparing the number of objects in a group and subitising (instantly recognising how many objects are there without needing to count them). We begin to explore how time is measured by thinking about 'my day' and we will explore pattern.

As part of Understanding the World we will be using many books such as 'Starting School', 'The Colour Monster', 'The Family Book' as part of our topic to explore all about starting school, ourselves, special people to us and to begin learning about each other too. We will learn about how we can come together as a class and about our place in the wider world, within the communities and the environment and wildlife of our planet, with Oliver Jeffer's 'Here We Are'. Using the book 'My World, Your World' we will be exploring some of the similarities and differences between the lives of people across different parts of the world. Children will explore both their own cultures and begin to learn about other cultures and traditions. As artists, we will be inspired by Picasso to develop our own portrait. During circle time children can talk about themselves and their families and share what they like doing, and ask each other questions too. We're going to have lots of fun exploring what we enjoy doing as a class this half term!

Finally, we will also begin using the season of Autumn to have lots of outdoor exploration in the forest to investigate seasonal changes. In the lead up to Harvest Festival, we will use the story 'The Little Red Hen' to inspire us to perform stories and songs for our special Harvest Festival Assembly.

Lots of lovely experiences for the beginning of our learning adventure together!