

DUCKLING NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM

ONE 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Gearing Up for a Great Year, Together!

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back this term, reconnecting with familiar faces and making lots of new friends along the way. We would like to introduce ourselves: Mrs Husselbee, Nursery Teacher, will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays, while Mrs Butler, Nursery Teacher, will be working on alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our wonderful teaching assistants are Mrs Barnes, who works full-time, Mrs Wakefield, who works on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Miss Bramall, who works on Wednesdays. We are excited to work together with you and your child and look forward to a happy and successful term ahead.

Nursery Routine

To help the day run smoothly, we ask that children are dropped off at the wooden nursery gate for the morning session between 8:20am and 8:30am. Children attending the morning session only should be collected promptly at 11:30am from the astro gates, where a member of the nursery team will bring them to you. Our afternoon session runs from 12:00pm until 3:00pm, with both drop-off and collection taking place at the wooden nursery gate.

A member of the team will be there to welcome you each day, giving us the opportunity for a quick chat if there is anything you would like to let us know before the session begins, or if we need to pass on any important information. If you would like a longer conversation, or would prefer to speak at a quieter time, please feel free to send me a message via Arbor or Tapestry, or contact the school office on 01773 872571. We are always happy to help and look forward to working closely with you throughout the year.

Outdoor Play and Welly Wednesday

At Ducklings, we love outdoor learning and play outside every day, whatever the weather – yes, even in the rain! Our garden area provides children with endless opportunities to explore, create and learn through play, whether that's splashing in water, building, painting, climbing, digging or enjoying imaginative play with transport and other resources. Nursery is a fun, hands-on and sometimes messy place, and we want every child to enjoy these experiences to the fullest. This means that, at some point, your child is likely to come home a little dirty, muddy or wet – and for some children, this may happen every day! We therefore ask that children come to Nursery dressed appropriately for the weather, with suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor play.

We will also be introducing Welly Wednesday, which will take place on alternate Wednesday morning and afternoon sessions. During these sessions, the Ducklings will spend the entire morning or afternoon outdoors, enjoying a range of exciting activities and experiences. I will share the dates for Welly Wednesday in a separate Tapestry post during Week 3. Please ensure your child arrives, or for our 30-hour children is sent, with suitable outdoor clothing so they can enjoy the session comfortably and confidently.

Settling in

Every child settles into Nursery in their own way and at their own pace. Some children will quickly settle and happily dash into Ducklings without a second glance, while others may need a little more time and reassurance before they feel confident separating from their grown-up.

Please be assured that we are very experienced in supporting children through this transition and will take the time needed to help them feel safe, secure and happy. We never want to rush the settling-in process. If you have any concerns, worries or questions, please do talk to us. Just like you, we want your child to feel happy, settled and excited about coming to Nursery each day.

LOOKOUT!

Autumn Challenge starting in October!
Details to follow on Tapestry.



Learning this term...

Our theme for this term is "Marvellous Me and My New Friends." During the first few weeks, our main focus will be getting to know each child as an individual, helping them feel happy, secure and valued as they begin their Nursery journey. We will also spend lots of time supporting children to build new friendships, develop confidence and become familiar with the routines and expectations of Nursery life. Through a range of exciting activities, stories and play experiences, we will encourage children to share information about themselves, celebrate their uniqueness and learn about the people around them.

Using Tapestry, you will be able to follow your child's learning journey and see some of the wonderful experiences they enjoy at Nursery. Tapestry is also an important way for us to share newsletters, key dates, reminders and community news, helping us to work together in supporting your child's learning and development throughout the year.



ECaT

Every Child a Talker (E.C.a.T.) is a programme that supports and promotes children's speech, language and communication development. Each Monday evening, a weekly E.C.a.T. letter will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to enjoy at home with your child. The activities and ideas shared will link to the 'talking themes' we have been exploring in Nursery throughout the week and will include either a story to share together or a nursery rhyme and song.

As part of our E.C.a.T. learning, we will also introduce a new Makaton sign each week for an everyday word. Learning these signs helps children to build a core vocabulary of Makaton, supporting their spoken language development and encouraging confident communication. You will be able to practise these signs at home too, as the weekly sign and symbol will be included in each E.C.a.T. letter. We hope you enjoy sharing these activities together and supporting your child's communication journey.

Dates for your Diary

- Nursery children starting throughout September.
- Friday weekly Kixx sessions – please wear trainers!
- Thursday 22nd October – stay & play session details to follow.
- 23rd October break up for October holiday week.
- Monday 2nd November back to school and Nursery
- Monday 30th November – Christmas Craft Afternoon
- Wednesday 9th December – Panto
- Friday 11th December Nursery Nativity
- Friday 18th December break up for Christmas holiday.
- Monday 4th January back to school and Nursery

The whole Nursery team is very much looking forward to working in partnership with you and your child this year. We are excited to support your child as they learn, grow and thrive in Ducklings. Mrs Butler and Mrs Husselbee, Nursery Teachers, and Mrs Barnes, Mrs Wakefield and Miss Bramall, our Nursery Teaching Assistants.

Duckling Library

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing a love of reading, we are delighted to be opening the Duckling Library in Week 4 of the Autumn Term. We believe that sharing stories is one of the most important and enjoyable ways to support children's learning, imagination and language development. In Nursery, we will spend time talking about how to care for books and discovering the magic that stories can bring. We hope that you will enjoy sharing a book chosen by your child and making reading together a special part of your weekly routine.

Library books will be sent home each Tuesday in a library bag to help keep them safe and should be returned each Monday so that a new book can be chosen. We kindly ask that both the book and library bag are returned each week.

Alongside the library book, your child will also bring home a sketchbook. This is an opportunity for them to record their own ideas, drawings and responses to stories in whatever way they choose. Please don't feel the need to help unless your child asks you to – we want them to take ownership of their work and feel proud of what they create. We hope you enjoy sharing these special moments together and looking back at the wonderful progress they make throughout the year.

Snack

To help us provide a healthy and varied daily snack for the children, we ask parents to voluntarily contribute 50p per session. This equates to £2.50 per week for children attending either mornings or afternoons, and £5.00 per week for children attending full days. Contributions can be paid weekly or termly in cash and should be given to a member of the Nursery team in a named envelope so that we can keep an accurate record of payments. If you would like to opt out of this please let us know. Thank you for your support.

