



Squirrel Class Newsletter

September 2025

Our class

A huge welcome to Squirrel class for both new and returning pupils. We hope you had a lovely summer. We are excited to be back and are looking forward to working with all the families and pupils in Squirrel class.

Our class team this year is:

Anna Hotchkiss - Teacher Erika Hoepfner - HLTA Gabby Lawson - TA

Charlotte Goodall - TA(MTW) Billie Saunders - TA(WTF) Sarah Ware - Lunchtime supervisor

If you have any questions or concerns at any time please speak to a member of staff, or email myself:

anna.hotchkiss@riverside.hants.sch.uk

Our learning

- The focus of our learning in Squirrel class is on; developing engagement in a range of activities and resources, interactions and communication, joint and individual attention skills, play skills, personal and independent skills, sensory and wellbeing. We will use engaging activities and experiences to provide a vehicle to work on these skills.
- We will work on coming together as a group to engage in activities such as sensory stories, bucket time, music and movement and 'Sensology' - an activity to awaken the senses and promote exploration.
- Pupils learning in areas such as literacy and maths will be woven through their engagement in the offered activities, resources, interactions and approaches.
- We will be using 'The Curiosity Programme' approach to support pupils development in engagement, interactions, communication and play skills.
- Pupils will also work on their individual targets in the areas of communication, literacy, maths, PSHE and wellbeing.

Our topic and learning themes

- Our overarching topic this half term is 'Look at me!'
- The art and music skills we will be exploring are painting and timbre.
- Pupils will explore a range of food items and engage with the skill of stirring in cooking.
- In maths we will work on our thinking skills to use our intentional actions and solve problems.
- Pupils will be supported to develop fine motor skills with a focus on finger isolation.
- We will explore the festivals of Harvest and Diwali through sensory activities.
- Our first sensory story this half term is 'Look at me'.
- Our Sensology themes are Green, Yellow, Orange, Harvest'



To support our learning in class, we would be grateful if you could send in two photos.

- **A baby photo of your child.**
- **A family photo including your child (immediate family).**

Please send these in as soon as possible. They can be sent via email to anna.hotchkiss@riverside.hants.sch.uk

Please ensure your child has these items in school:

- Nappies and wipes if required - we will let you know when we need more via the blue home book.
- Spare clothes - please top these up when we send dirty clothes home.
- Squash if your child does not drink water.
- Please can you ensure your child has a rain jacket in school for any unexpected down pours and plenty of changes of clothes and socks if they cannot tolerate one.

Important dates

INSET day -
Wednesday 1st October
Last day of term -
Friday 24th October
Return to school after
half term break -
Monday 3rd November.

Please keep an eye on the school website and in bookbags for further information and updates.