



# Squirrel Class Newsletter

## November 2025

### Our class

Welcome back, we hope you all had a lovely half term. This half term we have a new member of the Squirrels team that will be supporting in our class. We will try to introduce Rebecca to all our families where possible.

Our class team this year is:

Anna Hotchkiss - Teacher    Erika Hoepfner - HLTA    Gabby Lawson - TA    Rebecca Ginever - 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](mailto: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 colour and light.
- The art and music skills we will be exploring are colour mixing and tempo.
- Pupils will explore a range of food items and engage with the skill of pouring in cooking.
- In maths we will work on our object perception which is useful for understanding shape, the world and things in it.
- Pupils will be supported to develop fine motor skills with a focus on hand strength, you can support this by encouraging your child to squeeze items such as dough, wet cloths and water bottles.
- We will explore Christmas through sensory activities.



To support our learning in class, we would be grateful if you could continue to use the core word signs and symbols at home where possible. These come home each week after we have enjoyed exploring them through a range of activities in school. Remember to record any responses your child shows in their yellow communication and reading diary.

### **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 being wet.

### **Important dates**

**This half term we are visiting Portsmouth Gymnastic centre on Monday mornings.**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December -**  
Christmas Fayre

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December -**  
Christmas dinner/  
Christmas jumper day.

**Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> December -** KS2 Parent Christmas events.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December -**  
Christmas party / Last day of term (don't forget this is a half day)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January -**  
Return to school, INSET

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