

Purleigh Community Primary School

Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Year R!

This term our topics are:



Marvellous Me



and

**Let's
Celebrate!**

This term in Year R we will be learning all about ourselves, our families, our pets and where we live. We will also be learning about a variety of different festivals and celebrations that happen around the world. These include Christmas, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Hanukkah.

Marvellous Me

As part of our Marvellous Me topic, we will be talking about what makes us special and unique. This is a chance for us to meet the children and learn all about them. This allows the children to express who they are and what they enjoy. We will also be learning about the parts of the body, how to keep healthy, daily routines and keeping active.

In weeks 4 and 5, we will be learning all about our families and pets and why they are important to us. We will be looking at family trees and how we are related to our families. We will also be learning about the different roles and responsibilities that family members do. We will be talking about the pets we have at home as well as the pets we would like to own. We will be learning about how we care for our pets and make sure they are well looked after.

During week 6, we will be taking a look at our homes. We will be talking about where we live, what type of home we have and what we do around the house. This will include learning around preparing food, daily routines such as dressing, brushing our teeth and going to bed.

In weeks 7 and 8 we will be venturing out of our homes and looking at our local town or village. This will include learning about visiting places in our town, shops, landmarks, using public transport and leisure activities. We will also be focusing on road safety. This will include behaviour and safety around cars and vehicles, crossing the road and getting lost.

Let's Celebrate!

After half term we will be starting a new topic, Let's Celebrate! This topic will teach the children about a variety of different festivals and celebrations from around the world. We will be looking at the different religions that are connected to these events and why they are celebrated. This will be

a chance for the children to understand different cultures and beliefs and expose them to the wider community.

In the first week back, we will be focusing on Bonfire Night. We will be looking at the reason why we celebrate this event and the ways in which we do so. We will be creating colourful artworks using various different materials as well as moving and dancing like fireworks in our PE lessons.

During week 2, we will be focusing on Remembrance Day and talking about why people wear poppies. We will be exploring what soldiers would have looked like during World War I and what it was like for the people back home.

In weeks 3 and 4, we will be learning about Diwali and why Hindus celebrate this festival of lights. We will also be comparing this festival to Bonfire Night, discussing the use of lights and fireworks during celebrations. Not only this, we will also be learning about Thanksgiving. This will be a chance for the children to think about what they are thankful for in their lives and how they can show this.

Weeks 5 and 6 will be focused towards the start of winter and the Christmas season. We will be learning about why Christmas is important to Christians, the Nativity story and how we celebrate Christmas in our own homes through family traditions. We will also be learning about the Jewish festival, Hanukkah. We will be talking about the story of the Hanukkah Miracle and why light is an important part of so many celebrations.

In our final week, we will be learning about New Year's celebrations. We will be talking about why we make resolutions and how people use this opportunity to start something new and better themselves.

Homework:

Please see the Year R Autumn Term homework document. The children should bring in pieces of homework as they complete them each week. Work will be marked and homework books returned each Friday.

Other than the list of homework tasks given, listening to your child read on a daily basis will be crucial to his or her progress. At school, reading books will be changed on a Monday and Friday, to make sure your child has new reading material. Talking to your child about his or her choice of book and what is happening in the story will develop greater comprehension and literary skills, as well as practicing their phonics sounds and words. Please encourage your child to read a variety of books from home and from school and record all feedback in the reading record book.

Reading books to your child which is beyond the level of that which they can read independently will contribute towards extending his or her vocabulary and will support development of writing.

Please feel free to contact me either via Class Dojo, your child's reading record book, through the Year R email (yearr@purleigh.essex.sch.uk), or by talking to me after school if you have any concerns or questions.

Many thanks.

Miss Cook