

LEARNING LETTER - PANDA CLASS Autumn 25-26

MY COMMUNICATION Communication and Literacy	MY BODY Physical Skills	MY INDEPENDENCE Skills for Life
This Autumn Term, our topic is Traditional Tales. In Autumn 1, we will explore Disney-inspired stories, and in Autumn 2, we will enjoy Pantomime tales. These familiar stories will support pupils' communication and storytelling skills. Pupils will build their understanding by listening to, retelling, and acting out stories using props, role play, and sensory activities. We will use communication scripts, pre-phonics, colourful semantics, and symbol-supported resources to develop language and introduce new vocabulary such as castle, forest, prince, princess, hero, villain, and magic. Creative activities will include making wands, castles, and themed sensory trays, while role play and movement will build fine and gross motor skills. Pupils will also practise using symbols and PECS to make requests, express	This Autumn Term, our focus is on body awareness, coordination, and motor skills through fun physical, sensory, and outdoor activities. In Autumn 1, PE will focus on Disney parade dance, exploring rhythm, movement, and travelling in different ways. Outdoor learning will be woodland-themed, while fine motor work will include small world play, scissors skills, playdough, and mark-making. In Autumn 2, PE will focus on Gymnastics – Travelling, developing spatial awareness and using different body parts to move. Outdoor learning will link to pantomime tales with activities such as beanstalk building, rope ladders, and giant footprint hunts. Fine motor tasks will include making finger puppets, magic carpet collages, and Duplo beanstalks in shaving foam “clouds.”	This term, pupils will develop independence and life skills through Disney and pantomime-themed activities. In Autumn 1, we will enjoy cinema experiences in school, Identiplay with water play and small characters, and sensory exploration inspired by The Little Mermaid. Pupils will make sweet treats in cooking and relax with a Tangled massage story, while also practising tidying and managing belongings. In Autumn 2, pupils will explore theatre visits/performances and Identiplay puppet theatre. Sensory activities will link to Jack and the Beanstalk, Aladdin, and Dick Whittington, with themed massage and rhyming stories. Cooking will focus on ice cream and ice lollies, exploring new textures and following simple instructions.

feelings, and talk about story events, helping them grow in confidence and independence. Ways you can help your child: - Read or look at traditional tales or Disney stories together—talk about the characters and what is happening in the story. - Offer your child choices linked to stories (e.g., <i>“Do you want to be the prince or the dragon?”</i>). - Use role play at home—act out short scenes with soft toys or dress up as characters. - Watch or listen to pantomime or traditional tale performances together, pointing out the costumes, settings, and funny or magical parts.	Weekly swimming sessions will continue, building water confidence, whole-body movement, and sensory enjoyment. Ways you can help your child: - Go for walks in the park or woodland and encourage your child to notice and move around different natural objects (trees, logs, leaves). - Dance together at home to your child’s favourite music—copy each other’s moves to develop rhythm and body awareness. - Provide opportunities for fine motor play, such as cutting, sticking, building blocks, or using playdough to roll and shape characters. - Set up a simple obstacle course indoors or outdoors to practise crawling, climbing, and balancing. - Share calming activities like a gentle massage story, or yoga stretches to help your child relax and tune into their body.	Across the term, pupils will also practise personal care routines (washing, brushing hair, using cutlery) and work on their own individual independence targets. Ways you can help your child at home: - Make simple cold recipes together, like jelly or ice lollies. - Let your child help pack a small bag or choose between two items. - Practise personal care routines with prompts and praise. - Explore sensory play at home using textures, sounds, or smells.
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MY COMMUNITY PSHE and Cultural Development This term, pupils will develop their understanding of cultural events, self-awareness, and safety through engaging activities. In Autumn 1, our cultural focus will be Black History, alongside celebrating the International Day of Sign Language. In PSHE, we will explore “Getting on with Others”, practising sharing, turn-taking, and tolerating differences. In Autumn 2, we will learn about Hannukkah through stories, music, and crafts. Our PSHE focus will be Keeping Safe, including learning to stop and go, follow simple instructions, and request help when needed. Ways you can help your child at home: - Share simple stories, songs, or videos about different cultures and festivals. - Practise sharing toys and taking turns in play.	MY COGNITION Digital Literacy, Maths and Science This term, pupils will develop their maths, working world, and digital literacy skills through story-themed activities. In Autumn 1, our maths focus is on number skills. Through our topic Light and Dark, pupils will explore reflections, shadows, sun safety, and themes in texts using visual imagery. In digital literacy, pupils will experiment with simple animation, creating moving images using Seesaw. In Autumn 2, our maths focus shifts to shape. Linked to traditional tales, pupils will explore growing beanstalks, pushes and pulls, movement across surfaces, and flying paper or magnet-powered “magic carpets.” In digital literacy, pupils will take photographs of characters, props, and story settings to record their ideas. Ways you can help your child at home:	MY CREATIVITY Art and Music This term, pupils will explore expressive art and design through Disney and Pantomime themes. In Autumn 1, we will learn about Disney animators and visual artists, creating simple flip book animations and enjoying sensory music parades with favourite Disney songs. In Autumn 2, pupils will make scenery and small theatres, watch or take part in a puppet show, and role-play by dressing up in costumes. Creative projects will include making lava lamps, designing magic carpets with symmetry and patterns, and building wooden block castles to explore shape and structure. We will also sing and act out familiar pantomime songs and stories. Ways you can help your child at home: - Listen to Disney or pantomime songs together—sing along and encourage actions or dancing.
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- Encourage your child to follow “stop” and “go” games at home. - Use simple role play (asking for help, waiting, taking turns) to build confidence in real-life situations.	- Practise counting everyday objects (toys, snacks, steps) to build number skills. - Explore light and dark at home—use a torch to make shadows or reflections. - Talk about shapes you see around the house and outdoors. - Try simple experiments like rolling cars on different surfaces to explore pushes and pulls. - Encourage your child to take photos with a camera or tablet, focusing on people, toys, or favourite places.	- Provide simple art activities, such as drawing, colouring, or building with blocks. - Use everyday objects for role play (e.g., a blanket as a cape, a spoon as a wand). - Explore simple science experiments like mixing colours or watching bubbles fizz. - Encourage your child to spot shapes and patterns around the home or outside.
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