

Nursery Newsletter

Autumn 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Annie Lennard Primary School. We hope you all had a lovely Summer; we are so pleased to welcome lots of our families back for another exciting year, and to say a very happy hello to our new children and families! We can't wait to start a brand new, fun-filled year with you all



The children will be taught by Miss Thomas and an additional support practitioner (Miss Dolan) each morning. The sessions run every weekday from 8.45-11.45am.

Settling in

We have lots of fun activities planned to help the children enjoy their learning at Nursery and the children will soon settle into their pre-school routines.

Most mornings we will spend some time working and playing with the teachers and children in Reception class. We call this time 'Pick and Mix' which is our child-initiated learning. This is where the children will be able to choose activities to support their learning within our Early Years provision. This will include both indoor and outdoor activities so please remember to send your child to Nursery equipped with clothing to support the weather that day.

To support all areas of learning the children will be taking part in some messy and sensory activities so it is important that they do not come to school in their best clothes. We do encourage children to wear a school uniform which can be purchased from most supermarkets; white polo top, red jumper/cardigan, grey skirt/elasticated trousers.

Please ensure **all** belongings are named.

Your child will have a coat peg and a water bottle label, but at the end of each day we try to give out all belongings not accounted for, which if they are not named can be very difficult.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED EVERYDAY:

- A full water bottle
- Change of clothes (messy play is paramount to our learning)
**If your child is currently toilet training, please bring your child to Nursery in pants/knickers and put lots of spare clothes in their bag. This is something we will be working on during the first half term in Nursery.*
- A healthy snack
The children will receive a healthy snack option each morning from us. However, if you wish you may send them with a preferred fruit/vegetable snack. Please do not send your child to school with any other food.

Our Learning

The topic this half term is 'I'm special, I'm me!'.

We will be doing lots of fun (and sometimes messy!) activities relating to this topic.

As part of this topic, we will look at ourselves, discussing our emotions and we will explore families and our history so far.

Please see the overview of learning for this half term.

In Communication, Language and Literacy we will be getting used to hearing and telling stories. Our focus story this half term is 'Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes'. We will explore other stories related to our topic too.

We will also be developing our language skills around our topic and extend our vocabulary e.g. body parts, family members, emotions, baby equipment etc.

The children will have a daily 'phonics' session where we will be working from Little Wandle Foundation Phonics. This half term we will support our children with their auditory skills. Our initial focus during these sessions, for

this half term will be exploring and discriminating sounds we find all around us.

Reading for pleasure

We will send your child home with a library book. This is a great opportunity to share a story together at home – practising turning pages, looking at and talking about pictures and enjoying some quality time together. This year, we will be asking you to change your child's reading book with them each week. You do not have to change their book every week if you wish to continue with the same book, for example if your child really enjoys reading a particular story. Each **Wednesday** we will pop our book box by Nursery door for you to swap to a new book. Please try to read with your child as much as possible, it is a great learning opportunity and opens a world of new vocabulary.

Skills to focus on during reading with your child:

- Turning pages one at a time
- Introduction of book related vocabulary – front cover/back cover/pages/words/pictures
- Understanding we read from left to right
- Discussion about pictures
- Asking and answering questions about what we can see on each page

In Physical Development, we will explore lots of activities to support both gross and fine motor control. This is all in preparation for early writing.

We will introduce our 'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle' dances – building upon core strength ready for writing. These sessions take place daily.

Through weekly Personal, Social and Emotional (PSED) sessions the children will look at 'Being Me in my World' – finding out about ourselves, each other, our likes, dislikes, feelings, our classroom, the school, staff, rules, routines, expectations, etc.

In Mathematics we will be exploring finger number rhymes, counting body parts e.g. two eyes, one head etc. We will also be developing vocabulary around comparison, comparing groups using 'more than', 'fewer than' and 'the same.' We will explore and build with shapes and objects too.

Home Learning

As the children settle into school life, they will begin to receive some mini homework tasks each Friday that are related to the topic we are learning about. This may be a one-off piece of work or a project that will require more time. All of these activities and tasks support the children's learning, so we appreciate your support with this. These will most likely be set via Tapestry. It is important that you have filled out the relevant paperwork to enable you to access your parent log in for Tapestry. This login will also enable you to view some of your child's weekly Nursery achievements. **You will have received an email from Tapestry asking you to set up a password. Please ensure this is done as soon as possible so that we can begin a continuous communication with you using this platform.**

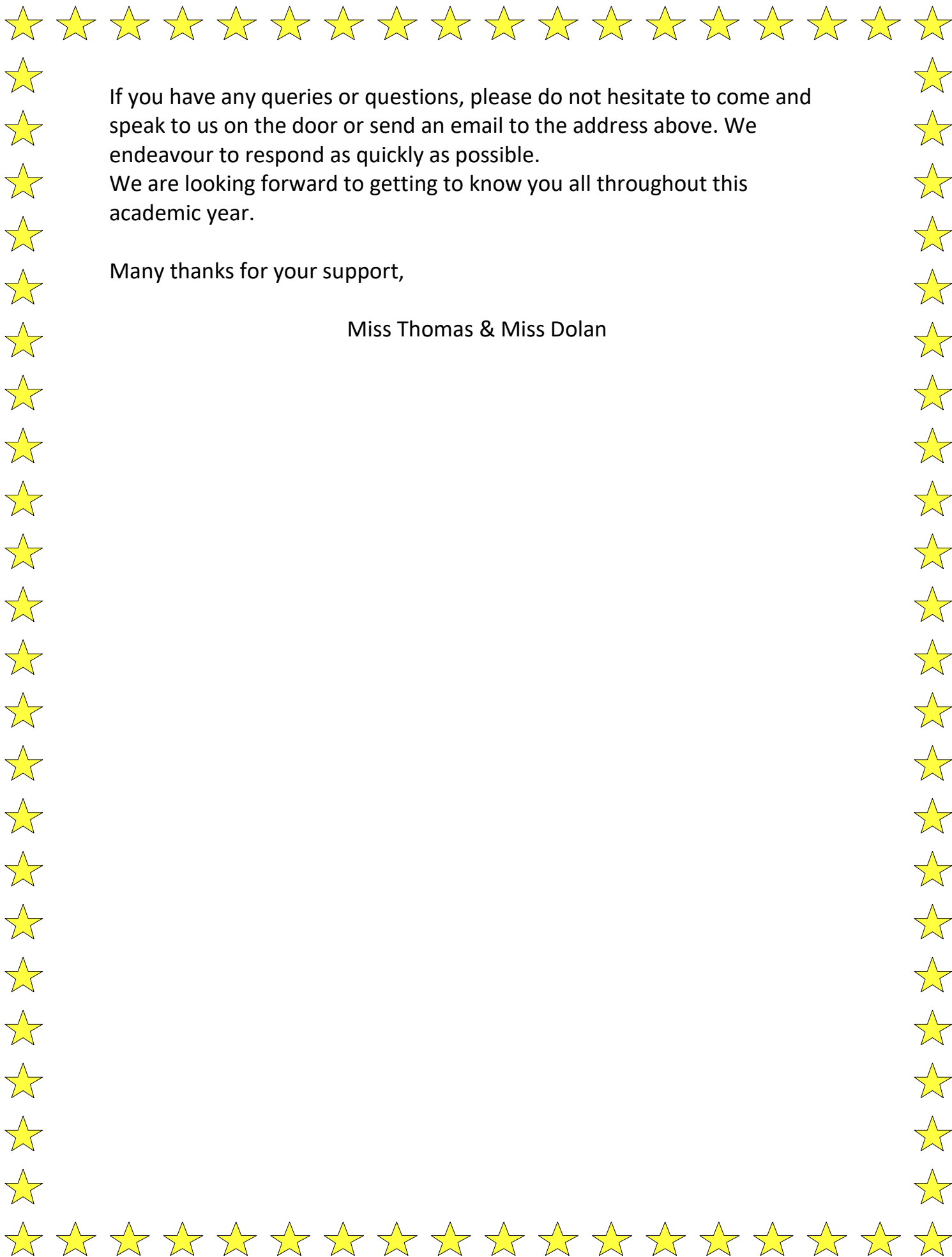
On Fridays we will be sending home our Nursery class bear. Each week our 'Star of the Week' will take home Curly the Caterpillar. We would love it if you could share your adventures with Curly on Tapestry. This is a great opportunity for your child to share their experiences with us in Nursery. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures!

In Early Years we love working with parent/carers to help support your child's learning journey. We endeavour to maintain communications with you and let you know any important information about your child and their day. We hope to invite you into workshops and theme days very soon, but in the meantime, please familiarise yourself with the school website and Tapestry, but of course call the school or email yearn.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk for any concerns.

REQUESTS: To support our topic and links to home in the classroom...

1. Please send us a **labelled family photo** to help us create a family display.
2. Please also send a **photo of your child as a baby** so we can explore our similarities and differences from then and now.

We can photocopy these photos if you prefer, or you could also send them across electronically through Tapestry.



If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us on the door or send an email to the address above. We endeavour to respond as quickly as possible.

We are looking forward to getting to know you all throughout this academic year.

Many thanks for your support,

Miss Thomas & Miss Dolan