Forest Hall Primary School
Autumn 2 2026 Half Term Information Sheet

Dear **Reception Elm** Parents,

This information sheet tells you about the theme being followed for this half term and which subjects are being linked to it and those which will be taught separately. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Where do we live and what do we celebrate?

We will be exploring the local area of Forest Hall using Google maps and our own personal knowledge. We will be thinking about the purpose of different buildings in Forest Hall and how they help or are used to help the local community. We will create our own maps and plans of Forest Hall as well as locate where it is on a map of Tyne and Wear. We will explore celebrations such as Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will discuss our family traditions at Christmas as well as see how it is celebrated around the world.

Cross curricular links:

Understanding the world: We will discover the reason Christians celebrate Christmas by reading the Christmas story/Nativity. We will also look at the beliefs and practices of others when finding out about Diwali and Christmas. We will compare a family Christmas now to a family Christmas in the past.

Expressive Arts and Design: During topic sessions we will be making Remembrance Day poppy pictures and fireworks using a range of media and materials. We will also be creating various Gingerbread Man themed craft. (linked to the story The Gingerbread Man) We will explore different media and art techniques when creating our Christmas cards and calendars.

PSED: we will be thinking about how we can look after ourselves. For example, how we keep ourselves clean, how we look after our teeth and what a healthy diet looks like. We will also look at how we can keep ourselves safe, with a focus on bonfire safety.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

Literacy: We will continue with our Read, Write, Inc. phonics sessions. We will continue using our knowledge of letter sounds to read and write simple words. We will also continue to practise our letter formation skills.

Maths: We will be focusing on the different ways we can make numbers up to 5. For example, 3 and 1 is 4.

Computing: The children will continue to practice logging on and exploring the drawing program Purple Mash. They will also use Google Maps to support in their topic work.

Physical Development/PE: We are developing our balance, control and coordination skills.

Music: The children will continue to follow the music programme 'Charanga'.

Art: The children will explore the concept of 'natural art'. They will use plants and leaves to make pigments and explore how natural objects can be used to paint and mark make. They will also focus on the artist Van Gogh.

Class Novel or author focus: The Gingerbread Man

How can you help?

Talk to your child about what they have been learning at school and where possible, extend their learning at home, through books, outings, discussions and the internet. You can record this in their learning journey.

Please check your child's book bag and your emails frequently for newsletters and other information.

Please read regularly with your child. Thank you

Class Reminders:

Wildlife Wednesdays: *Wednesday.* Children should ***come to school dressed in clothes suitable for outdoors.*** Please remember spare clothing and shoes to be worn inside afterwards.

PE: *Monday* and ***Thursday***. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit with their school jumper and joggers over the top. Our PE kit is a white T-shirt, blue shorts, and black sandshoes or trainers.

Library book: *Monday*. This is to be returned to school on a Monday. If your child does not return their book on a Monday they may have to wait until the following Monday to change it.

Reading Books: *Thursday.* We will listen to your child read swap over their book or set new sounds and words for them to practice so please remember their reading record book and we will send these home on Friday.