

Juniper Hill School

Information for Reception Parents

Term: Autumn 1 **Topic:** *The Gruffalo*.
2-week topic starting 29.9.25

Welcome to our topic information sheet. You will receive one every time we begin a new topic. (Every two to three weeks)

Literacy

We will be reading the stories 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Gruffalo's Child' by Julia Donaldson. We will be talking about and describing the different characters in the story and then using props to retell the story in our own words. We will also be listening carefully to initial sounds and rhymes in the story. This week, we will begin teaching phonics. We will start with reading and writing sounds **m, a, s, t, d**. We will then teach **i, p, n, g, o** the following week. This Friday, your child will be coming home with a sound booklet to practice at home. There will be a slip attached with more guidance on how to use it.

Maths

We have started to find opportunities to count every day and have looked at ways we can arrange objects to count them reliably. We will be looking at different ways to sort objects and thinking about how there is more than one way to sort things e.g. sorting by colour, size, pattern etc. We will be comparing amounts by counting how many are in different sets and using the words '**more**' and '**fewer**' to compare.

Topic work

We will be using oil pastels and exploring the different ways that we can use them, such as smudging

We will also be looking at different textures and exploring how we can create these using paint, playdough and different tools.

Ways you can help

Please could you support your child with practising putting on and doing up their coats, independently. The children are frequently putting on and taking off their coats throughout the day as they access the outdoor curriculum. Could you also please help your child to **practise writing their name** in the script that we teach and use at school. Your child's name is attached in this script. The dot shows you where each letter starts and the arrow the direction to go from the dot. A booklet with Information on how we teach handwriting in Reception was in the pack that you received during our meeting on Wednesday.

Reminders

Please can you make sure that your child has a coat in school every day. The weather changes during the day at this time of year and the children carry out a lot of their learning outside.