

Keep Learning

Autumn 1 2026

Blue Room



Take a look at the planned learning opportunities and adult guided activities this term

Our focus value this term is: Relationships



- Trusted, respectful relationships are developed with all our children and their families through high quality interactions, communication and support.
- Partnerships with colleagues ensures support is given when needed to ensure a healthy start and equity for all children.
- Nurturing adults feel joy and are honoured by sharing the learning journey of children.

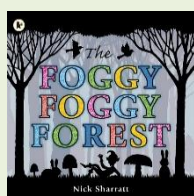
At the start of the academic year we will be following our Starting School Framework for the first few weeks as the children settle in – please click on the link below and select your child's age band.

[Rowland Hill - Starting School Framework](#)

Focus text - We will be reading

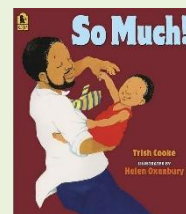
Week 5

[Foggy Foggy Forest](#)



Week 6

[So Much - read by Camola](#)



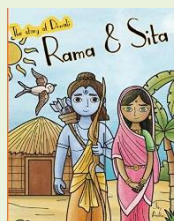
Week 7 Talk for Writing Week - Stuck in the Mud

The children will explore the story of Stuck in the Mud, about a cow called Maisy who gets stuck in the mud and is helped by the farmer and other animals. They will act out the story, repeat key phrases, and use story pictures to bring it to life. As they become familiar with the story, they will:

- Imitation: listen, join in, act out, repeat, use story pictures
- Innovation: change characters, places, or events, retell with help
- Invention: make their own stories, plan with pictures, use imagination
- This helps children develop language, creativity, and confidence.



Week 8



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-diwali>

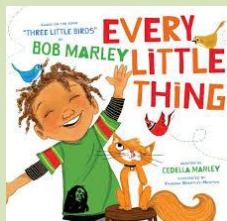
Rhyme of the Week - We will be singing

Week 4



[Sleeping bunnies](#)

Week 5 -



[Every Little Thing \(Three Little Birds\)](#)

Week 6



[The Grand old Duke of York](#)

Week 7 - Week 7



[Old MacDonald had a Farm](#)

Week 8



[If You're Happy and You Know It - Sing with Sian](#)

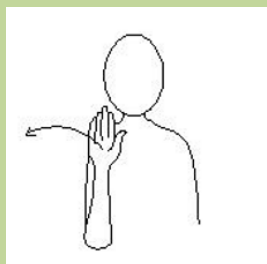
Sign of the week - We will be learning these Makaton signs



We will be launching our Makaton 'Sign of the Week' on Monday 21st September 2026

Check out our [Makaton playlist](#) on the Rowland Hill YouTube channel.

Week 4



Good bye



Good bye

Week 5

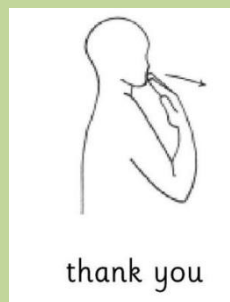


Help

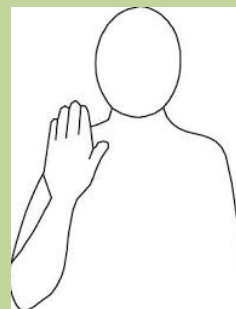


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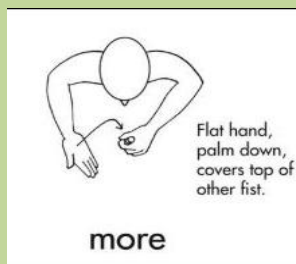
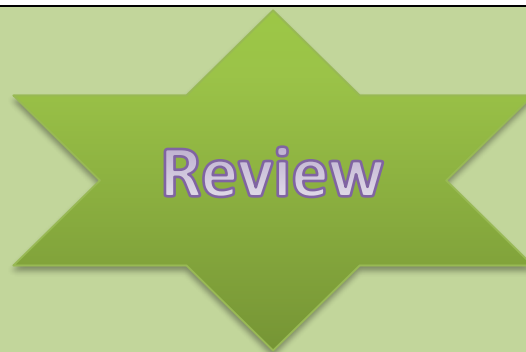
Week 6 -



thank you



Stop

Week 7 –**Week 8 –****We will be learning about these early phonics concepts in our play**

Weeks 4 & 5 - Our phonological awareness focus will be: Environmental sounds



- A listening walk - go for a short walk with the particular aim of listening to the sounds around you.
- Animal sounds - what sounds do familiar animals - pets and farm animals make?
- Hunt the teddy - hide a toy and then encourage your child to find it by singing or talking louder as they get closer.
- Nature sounds - can you sound and move like the wind? the rain? a storm?
- Shakers - collect small opaque containers and fill them with different things - pebbles, rice, feathers. Invite your child to shake them and then look inside to identify the objects.

Stories - tell stories with lots of sound effects and encourage your child to join in!

Weeks 6 & 7 - Our phonological awareness focus will be: Weeks Our phonological awareness focus will be:

**Instrumental sounds**

- Sing and play - sing your favourite songs or watch a video online and play along with home-made instruments.
- Kitchen band - raid the cupboards for saucepans and wooden spoons and make a racket!
- Loud and quiet - using a collection of objects (see above) ask your child to play loudly, and then quietly.

Orchestra - listen and dance to orchestral music. Vary the music and ask your child how it makes them feel. [5 pieces of classical music for kids - London Philharmonic Orchestra](#)

Weeks 8 - Our phonological awareness focus will be: Week 8 – Our phonological awareness focus will be: Body percussion

- Sing and move to some action songs such as If you're Happy and You Know it.
- Making noise through movement - Stamp, clap, slap your thighs - use your bodies to add a beat to the songs you sing or to create your own rhythms.
- Fast and slow - stamp fast, stamp slow, clap fast, clap slow ...
- Copy the beat - stamp your feet or clap your hands in a rhythm then ask your child to copy it.

**We will be learning about these Maths concepts in our play**

Weeks 4 & 5- Our Maths focus will be:

Our Maths focus will be: Cardinality and Counting

Understanding that the cardinal value of a number refers to the quantity, or 'howmany-ness' of things it represents.

- Model writing numerals, e.g. on badges, birthday cards and banners.
- When counting objects with your child emphasise the cardinal principle: 1, 2, 3, *there are three cups.*
- Invite your child to count out a number of things from a larger group e.g. *Can you get five crackers?*
- When counting with your child, playfully make deliberate mistakes for fun, expecting your child to correct you.
- Encourage your child to use their fingers to show an amount e.g. when asking how many grapes they would like.

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/>

Weeks 6 & 7

Our Maths focus will be: Comparison

Looks at the relative size of numbers including finding which is larger or smaller

- Talk with young children about lots, more and not many and not enough as they play.
- Draw attention to contrasting differences and changes in amounts e.g. adding more bricks to a tower or eating things up.

- Encourage children to share items between two people or toys
- Encourage children to explore the collections they make, comparing amounts and counting some of the items, emphasising the last number, e.g. 1,2,3. There are 3 leaves.

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/>

Week 8 - Our Maths focus will be:

Our Maths focus will be: Composition

Through play and exploration, beginning to learn that numbers are made up (composed) of smaller numbers

- Invite children to count out a number of things from a larger group, e.g. Can you get five crackers?
- Explore different arrangements of the same number, e.g. sharing five in different ways; hiding one group and "guessing" the hidden number.
- Support children to choose how to arrange collections of two, three and four objects in different ways.

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/>

Adult Guided activities in play

Week 4 – Process Cooking

We are making Veggie
following instructions on
We will be using
The children will focus



Cups in the Process Cooking area where we will be independently
the picture card prompts.
tomatoes and peppers the children will harvest from the garden.
on chopping and grating the cheese using a grater.

Weeks 5 & 6 – Forest School & Natural Thinkers

The children will be able to explore the natural environment and be taught the rules and expectations of the forest school. As we embark on our visit to the forest school areas, the children will gain skills associated with the natural world and the confidence to explore the vast environment through play and exploration.

Through Natural thinkers the children will
and prepare for spring. The children will
as learning about the importance to sow
needed. We look forward to seeing these



plant spring bulbs as we enter the autumn season
be planting daffodils, snowbells and tulips, as well
plants are the appropriate time and the tools
plants bloom next year.

Week 7 & 8 – Woodwork

The children will have an induction to the activity, the rules and expectations will be covered and the importance of safety as they explore the tools and materials on offer for them .

The first activity will be on inserting golf tees into pumpkins, using Rubber Mallets and mini Claw Hammers.



Seasonal Calendar activities and events

Please see the activity posters below



Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Jewish New Year. This Jewish holiday celebrates the completion of another year, and the beginnings of a new year. It is also the time for rejoicing, and reflecting.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday 11th and ends on nightfall on Sunday 13th, marking the start of the Hebrew year 5787.

Many will eat sweet foods including round challah, apples dipped in honey, and pomegranates to symbolise a good and sweet new year.

We will be learning about this festival in our Talking Times sharing experiences and reading books together to learn more.



***International Day
of Sign Languages***
September 23

We will be launching our Makaton 'Sign of the Week' on Monday 21st September 2026

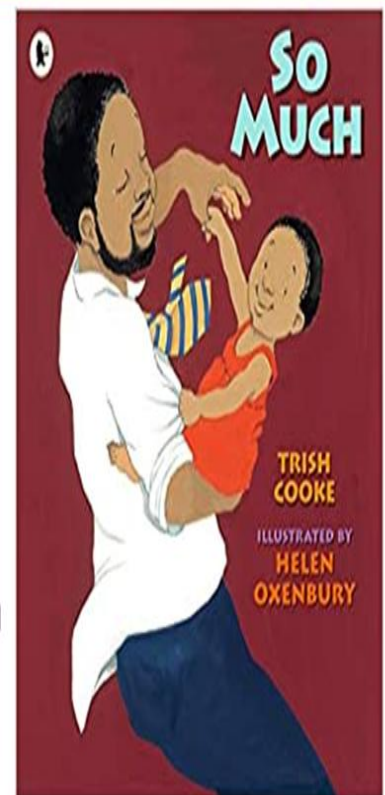
Check out our [Makaton playlist](#) on the Rowland Hill YouTube channel.

The weekly Makaton signs will also be highlighted in our termly curriculum overviews available on our website

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October we will be celebrating Black History Month by sharing a selection of books written by black authors, singing songs from around the world and trying some tasty dishes. If you have any talents and would like to come in to share these with the children to celebrate other cultures, please speak with your key worker.





Many of our families are already doing a great job walking to school every day.

Choose an active start to your day by walking to school and reducing pollution caused by driving.

If you are getting your daily exercise by travelling to school on a bike or a scooter, you can park it in our bike shed in the Community garden.

RECYCLE WEEK 2026

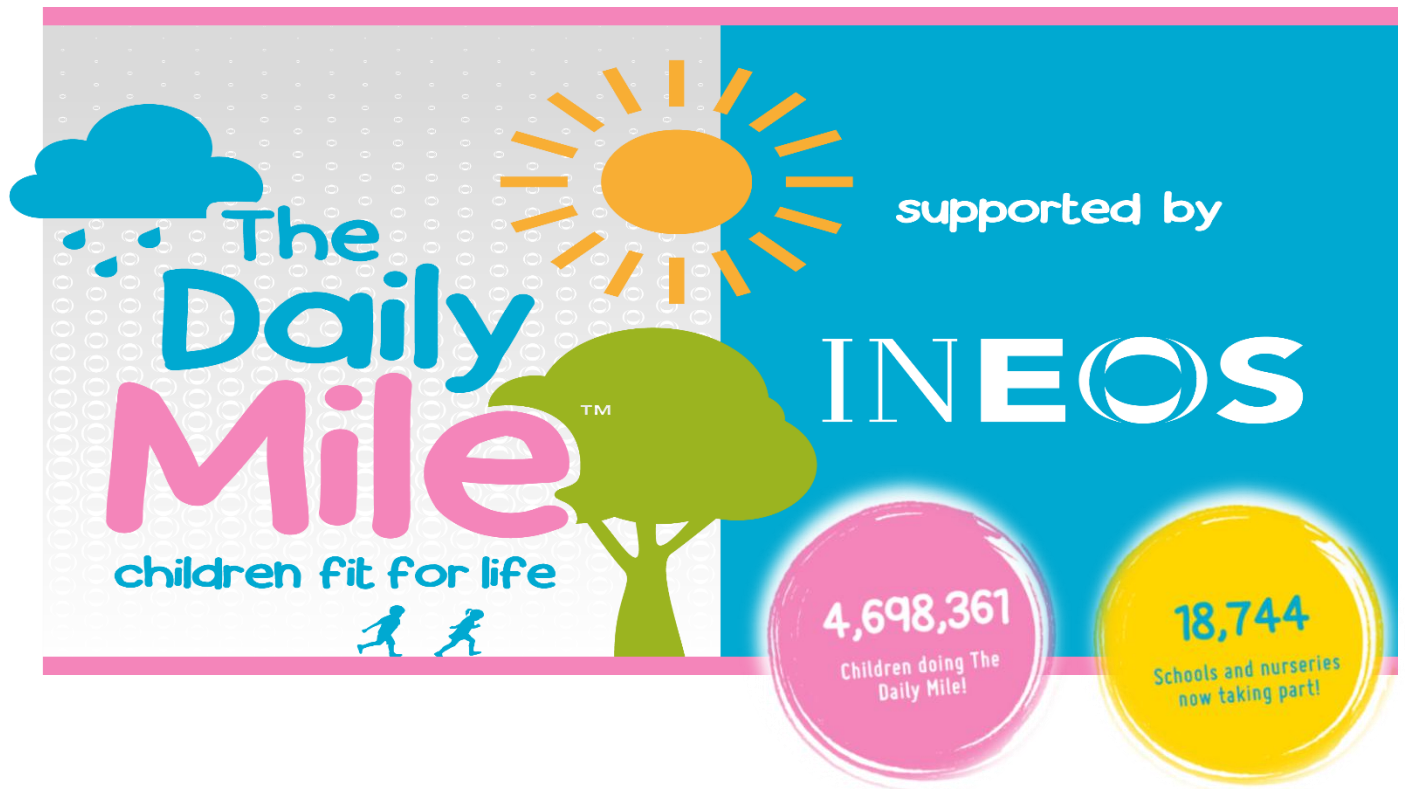
14-20 SEPTEMBER



2026 has been a big year for recycling, already! New policy, upcoming changes, and packaging developments, all helping improve recycling rates. But nothing changes without people choosing to recycle. This year, we're focused on maximising the impact of these changes through our biggest campaign moment. Helping change behaviour, so that the right things go in the right bins. [Recycle Week 2026 | WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme](#)

As part of our Starting School Framework, we will be learning about recycling the materials we use at the nursery, talking about the materials that packaging and resources are made from.

The children actively take part in recycling when tidying up and will also be reusing materials through junk modelling and to support our creativity with loose parts in the garden.



RESEARCH ON THE DAILY MILE

We all know 'exercise is good for you', and The Daily Mile is no exception. There are a wide variety of health and wellbeing benefits associated with daily physical activity and an emerging body of evidence supports the positive impact The Daily Mile can have on children's health.



At Rowland Hill we will restart our daily mile sessions from 14th September 2026



National Poetry Day

Thursday 1st October 2026

At Rowland Hill we will have a celebration of Poetry through our Talking Times and will share some of our favourite authors in our curriculum overview, which is available on our website.

Share your child's favourite poems with us on Tapestry.



**Be part of our day of action. Wear Red Day -
Friday the 16th of October 2026.**

**The UK's leading
anti-racism educational charity**

Wear Red Day - Show Racism the Red Card

Key information about the charity from the website – link above

2026 is the 12th Anniversary of Wear Red Day. A landmark that we are incredibly proud of. Our first celebration in 2014 saw 7,000 people registering to take part. In 2024, that figure had exploded to become 710,000 participants celebrating with us.

We couldn't be more grateful to our supporters.

For 2026, we've set ourselves a target and with your help, we think that we can achieve it.

Will you celebrate with us and be one of the 1 million?

As a supporter, you are showing your true, brave colours. As part of the team, you make us stronger.

Every heart and every mind that we change changes at least one life but has the capacity to change hundreds, if not thousands of others.

Be a proud anti-racist. Be the difference. Join us.

Wear Red



Diwali 2026, the Festival of Lights will be celebrated across the UK with vibrant events, fireworks, and cultural festivities.

Starting on Sunday 8th November marking the main day of Lakshmi Puja. The entire five-day festival spans from Friday 6th November till Tuesday 10th November 2026.

