



Autumn Term 2026

Early Years Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome to Early Years at Ickworth Park!

This term in Early Years we will be focusing on getting to know each other, sharing our interests, establishing and embedding some important routines and generally having lots of fun! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate getting in touch via drop off, pick up or Class Dojo.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Throughout the term we will be supporting the children to make new friendships, sharing and taking turns. Effective communication between peers and navigation of different situations will also be a key focus.

Phonics

Our phonics programme in Elm class is called Little Wandle. When your child is ready they will come home with a reading book. This reading book will be kept for the whole week where they will have three reading lessons in school covering decoding, prosody and comprehension. The skills learnt in these lessons can then be practiced with you at home during your book sharing time. We will only provide your child a reading book when they have comfortably secured specific sounds and we feel they are confident enough to succeed. We will be holding a Little Wandle Coffee Morning for parents on Monday 28th September.

Communication and Language

Our focus this term is to develop active listening and response to questions or conversation in a range of situations. We will also build confidence when speaking to others in small or whole class discussions.

Mathematics

In Maths this term we are going to be focusing on counting accurately, the conservation of number, the skill of subitising, patterns, shape and measure. Your child will partake in focused maths lessons each week covering a different area of maths listed above and be fully immersed in mathematical reasoning, problem solving and number throughout their exploratory play.

Library visits

Your child will visit the school library once a week on a Monday. They will be able to explore the vast range of books we have and borrow one or two to bring home each week. Please return your book each week enabling your child to swap it.

Physical Development

This half term we will be focusing on coordinating and controlling gross motor movements as well as developing our fine motor control to securely and safely use classroom equipment such as scissors. P.E days will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays and these will begin the week of 21st September. Please send your child in wearing their PE kit on these days.

Expressive Art and Design

In Art we will be focusing on portraits, exploring the role of outlines to make features and thick and thin brushes for adding detail. We will also be exploring our imaginations by creating shows, stories, songs and entering the world of pretence using the classroom provision. The focus artists this term will be Van Gogh and Kandinsky.

EYFS Staff

Elm Class teachers

Mrs Weller (Mon-Weds)
Mrs Riley (Thurs & Fri)

Supported by

Mrs Marshall
Miss Holmes

Our School Values

Respect

Challenge

Resilience

Confidence

Understanding the world

In **R.E** we will discuss how to value things and think about important words including names. We will celebrate Harvest Festival and the meaning behind this. Later in the term we will learn the Christmas story.

In **Science** we will carry out Autumn walks getting to know our environment, plant spring bulbs and winter flowers and we will learn about hibernating animals.

In **History** we will learn about significant historical, cultural and religious events including Remembrance Day and Diwali.

In **computing** we will use iPads to capture photographs of our school and classroom environment, practice our drawing skills and use the interactive whiteboard. In our online safety sessions, we will talk about using technology in the home and how to stay safe when doing so.

In **Music** we will be listening and responding to different styles of music. We will learn familiar nursery rhymes with actions and learn Christmas songs later in the term.

End of day collection

Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us, therefore could we please ask that if anyone else is collecting your child who we may not have seen before or rarely see, send us a dojo message and let us know the name of the person collecting and a password that we can ask for. In addition to this, please can we also reiterate that you must come through the first wooden gate into the 'collection zone' when collecting your child at the end of the day. Please keep a close eye on your child when leaving as the bus turning circle can be extremely dangerous. Thank you for your support with this.

Diary Dates for Autumn Term 2026

Flu vaccinations – wk. b 21st September
EYFS Phonics coffee morning – 28th September
School individual photos - Parent consultations – 20th and 22nd October - 3.30 - 6pm
PTA Disco- 23rd October
Half term – 26th-30th October
Class panto trip – 9th December
PTA Elf room – 14th December
Christmas Crafternoon – 16th December 2.15pm
Last Day – 17th December