



# Little Classroom

Let's Learn • Let's Play • Let's Grow

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1

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Let's Teach Nursery, Pre-School and Reception Home Education

### *Stories- Topic Places of Interest*

This half term's topics will cover a range of exciting environments and places. In Week 1, children will explore the seaside with *What the Ladybird Heard at the Seaside*. Week 2 will take them to the park with *Percy the Park Keeper*, followed by a visit to the shopping centre in Week 3 with *Handa's Surprise*. In Week 4, they'll learn about cafes through *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, and in Week 5, they'll discover the garden centre with *Oliver's Vegetables*. Throughout the topic, we'll follow the children's interests, allowing them to explore environments they're particularly curious about.

### *Let's Read*

Age 3 (Starting School 2026):

Reading: Enjoying picture books, recognising familiar words, and starting to develop an awareness of letters and sounds.

Phonics: Focus on environmental sounds, body sounds, and nursery rhymes to develop listening skills and attention.

Communication & Language: Encouraging vocabulary, simple conversations, and listening to stories.

Age 3-4 (Starting School 2025):

Reading: Listening to stories, recognising key sight words, and beginning to retell simple stories.

Phonics: Progressing through Level 1 phonics, focusing on letter sounds, blending simple consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, alliteration, oral blending and beginning to recognise simple word patterns.

Age 4-5:

Reading: Recognising and reading simple words, showing an understanding of sentence structure, and beginning to read short stories independently.

Phonics: Mastery of Level 1 phonics (basic sounds) and moving into Level 2 (digraphs, blends), recognising common word families, and blending sounds to read more complex words.

These skills build progressively, with children moving through phonics levels as they master each stage. Phonics lessons will be tailored to their ability, helping them develop reading fluency and confidence.

## Let's Write

### Age 3:

Explore with pencils and crayons, making random marks and developing hand-eye coordination. Begin imitating writing by making lines and showing interest in holding writing tools.

### Age 3-4:

Form simple shapes and letters, explore patterns, and draw pictures of familiar objects. Start to understand that marks carry meaning, write their name, and pretend to write or make lists.

### Age 4-5:

Form recognisable letters and simple words (CVC) with correct pencil grip. Work towards the Early Learning Goal (ELG) by using phonic knowledge to write words and phrases, form letters correctly, write their name independently, and begin writing simple sentences with basic punctuation.

## Let's Count

### Age 3:

Explore numbers and shapes through play, counting objects up to 5, and sorting by size, shape, or colour.

### Age 3-4:

Count to 10, identify and order numbers, and understand simple patterns. Develop mathematical language through sorting, pattern recognition, and using terms like "more," "less," "bigger," and "smaller."

### Age 4-5:

Count to 20 and beyond, understand basic addition and subtraction, and recognise simple shapes. Use terms like "more," "less," and "groups of" and explore size, weight, and time concepts. They will work towards the Early Learning Goal (ELG), counting, ordering, and writing numbers up to 20, solving simple addition and subtraction, and applying number knowledge in everyday situations.

## Let's Educate at Home

**Nature Walks:** Explore the outdoors, looking for signs of spring like blooming flowers, insects, and birds.

**Gardening:** Plant summer flowers or veggies, and let your child help with watering and caring for them.

**Arts & Crafts:** Create sun prints, paper kites, or leaf collages to celebrate warmer weather.

**Counting & Sorting:** Collect fallen leaves, sticks, or stones and sort them by size, colour, or shape.

**Baking:** Bake summer-themed treats like fruit tarts or berry muffins, practicing measuring and mixing.

**Outdoor Play:** Have a picnic, play ball games, or set up a small outdoor obstacle course.

**Sensory Play:** Set up a water play station or mud kitchen for hands-on exploration.

**Storytime:** Read weather or summer-themed books and talk about the pictures.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Create a hunt for signs of summer, such as specific flowers, insects, or trees.

## Let's Celebrate

*Which sticker did your child receive?*

