

## Spring Term Diary Dates 2025:

12<sup>th</sup> February – FS/KS1 Talent Show  
13<sup>th</sup> February – INSET Day  
16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February – Half-Term Break  
4<sup>th</sup> March – EYFS Visit to Manor Farm  
5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day  
10<sup>th</sup> March – FS1 Stay and Play Day  
17<sup>th</sup> March (4-7pm) and 18<sup>th</sup> March (1.30-3.30pm) FS2 Parent Consultations  
27<sup>th</sup> March – End of Term

### Other Learning:

**Art:** Painting with fingers, natural objects and brushes.

### Science:

FS1 - Animals – pets and farm.

FS2 – Forces / Sound / Animals

### History / Geography:

FS1 – Celebrations

FS2 – Long, Long Ago

**Physical Development:** Ball Skills, Gymnastics, Scissor skills

### Relationships and Health Education:

My Body, My Rules / Staying Safe –

Inside and Out / Growing Up – changing bodies



# Foundation Stage

## Spring Term 2026

Miss Chapman, Miss Matthews, Mrs Chahal and all the staff in the foundation stage offer the new children starting this term a very warm welcome, we look forward to seeing you learn and grow this term. Welcome back to our existing children. We hope you had a lovely festive break.



We continue with our over-arching focus on our spiritual treasure within: our own qualities and the qualities of others. *Matthew teaches us that what we value the most is what our hearts are drawn to. What we treasure is what will become our life's focus.* Thank you to all the families who have already filled pages of our Treasure Trove Books, sharing your child's treasures. They have loved sharing them. Lots more children will have a chance to contribute to these this Spring Term.

This term, in the EYFS, we ask:

### I wonder how we can be curious communicators

This gives us the opportunity to encourage confident talking, extend the children's vocabulary and respond to the questions that their wonderful, enquiring minds ask. To support your child's speech and language development, if they are using a dummy during the day time, please see the next page for tips and advice.

During our **RE** learning, this term we will be thinking about:

**From Galilee to Jerusalem** – Hear about – The Wise Men visiting Jesus; Jesus welcoming the little children, Jesus blessing the little children. Consider: How can we live like Jesus?

**From Desert to Garden** – Hear about – Lent is a time to care for others. Jesus died on a cross. Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates. Love God and love everyone. Consider: How does Lent prepare us for Jesus' death and resurrection?

Explore other faiths of **Hinduism** and **Sikhism** and compare with our own.

Our **key stories** this term will be:

FS1 (Miss Chapman/Mrs Chahal's class) - The Epiphany; Jack and the Beanstalk; Jasper's Beanstalk; Rosie's Walk; The Easter Story. Story Steps Stories will be Ella's Rainbow and A Storm at the Farm.

FS2 (Miss Matthews' class) – The Epiphany; The Three Billy Goats' Gruff; The Little Red Hen; The Easter Story.



## Why Dummies Should Be Stopped by Age Three

**Speech & Language:** Constant dummy use hinders babbling, experimenting with sounds, and forming words, potentially leading to unclear speech or lisping later on. **Dental Issues:** Prolonged sucking can push front teeth forward (protrusion) or create a gap (open bite), often requiring orthodontic work. **Middle Ear Infections:** Sucking can open the Eustachian tube, allowing bacteria from the nose to enter the middle ear, increasing infection risk.

### Tips for Weaning Off Dummies

**Limit Daytime Use:** Restrict dummies to sleep times only, removing them when the child is awake and interacting. **Make it a Celebration:** Use a special occasion like a birthday or holiday to ceremoniously give the dummy away to fairies or Santa, exchanging it for a gift. **Use Books:** Read stories like The Last Noo-Noo to help children understand and prepare for giving it up. **Praise & Rewards:** Offer lots of praise and use sticker charts to reward the child for not using their dummy.

How else can you help support our topic...

- Borrow the key stories from the library so that you can share them at home (or find them on YouTube).
- Follow the links and suggested activities on our weekly updates, particularly in phonics and maths.

Our role play areas will change from a Vets to a Farm Shop – linking with an upcoming visit to Manor Farm, East Leake.



We hope to include Forest School sessions at Glapton Wood led by both Miss Chapman and Miss Matthews. **We will need parental support, so if you can spare time to help, we will be hugely grateful.**

Forest Schools is a unique and powerful opportunity for children to develop their relationships, resourcefulness, resilience and their ability to reflect in an outdoor, open-ended environment.

**You will receive a letter when it is your child's turn to go, please make a note of the dates** that they will need to come to school prepared and in their own clothes.

We will continue to keep you informed throughout the Spring term via our weekly updates which will be sent through email. You can also check out our FS Blog on the school website: <http://brwacademy.com> here we share and celebrate children's work and successes. Please, as ever, come and talk to us if you have any questions.

## Helping at Home — Fine Motor Skills



- Skywrite letters in their name or outlines of different shapes
- Using water and paintbrushes/chalks to make marks outside
- Practise writing their name/initial sounds in different ways and different sizes such as with felt pens, pencils, using sticks to write it in mud etc
- Thread beads/pasta tubes onto wool or string to make a crown, necklace or snake.
- Helping to peg the washing on the line
- Make some playdough and practise creating different shapes/letters using different techniques; rolling, squeezing, patting etc. Use it to do these activities; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9D5lfqZF3o>
- Find other ideas here: <https://www.jojoebi.com/50-fine-motor-skills-activities/>
- <https://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/fine-motor-activities.html>
- <https://www.earlymovers.org.uk/skills/fine-motor-skills/advanced>