September 2026

Welcome

It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children and families back to Rayndrops. We also extend a very warm welcome to the new children and families who will be joining us over the coming weeks.

The children are settling back into Rayndrops wonderfully and are being supported by Naomi, Leah, Lisa, Ella, Lizzie, Denise and Jane.

If you have any questions or concerns, please continue to speak to a member of the Pre-School team, who will be more than happy to help and support you.

Topics

This half term, the children will be exploring topics that support their transition from home to Pre-School, while enjoying meaningful stories linked to key seasonal themes. Some of the books we will be sharing include *Owl Babies*, *The Colour Monster*, *The Leaf Thief* and *Fox's Favourite Autumn*. These stories will provide opportunities to explore feelings, relationships, belonging and the changing season of autumn.

Group Time Learning

Communication and Language Groups

Over the coming weeks, the children will continue to take part in whole-group sessions before splitting into smaller groups to further develop their communication and language skills.

Through engaging and practical activities, the children will have opportunities to develop their listening and attention, understanding, communication and interaction skills as well as sharing and turn taking.

Our aim is to develop these important foundational skills while ensuring that communication is accessible, positive and meaningful for every child. The children will explore The Zones of Regulation. We will reinforce that all feelings are valid as they begin to recognise and communicate how they are feeling and strategies for co and self-regulation.

BSL Sign of the Week

Each week in Rayndrops, we introduce a British Sign Language (BSL) Sign of the Week. BSL is a fantastic tool for supporting communication and language development for children of all ages.

Where possible, we link our weekly sign to our current topic or story, choosing a key word that can be used naturally throughout the children's learning, play and daily routines.

Please look out for our Sign of the Week on Seesaw, so you can practise and enjoy using the signs with your child at home too!

Share these signs at home:

Good Morning

September

Happy

Sad

Harvest Celebrations

We are delighted to be supporting the NEED Project once again this year. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October.

We are also looking for **donations of Pumpkins in to Rayndrops** from Monday 21st – 28th September. We will be using the pumpkins to further explore Harvest as well as engaging in messy play, imaginative play, mathematical play and so much more! If you are able to donate a pumpkin then we would gladly welcome one per child.

Please don't forget to join us for our ***Early Years Harvest Festival Assembly on Thursday 1st October*** at 9:15am in the hall. The children have been busy practising their singing and, over the coming weeks, will create some beautiful artwork to help tell the story of Harvest.

We will end our celebration with a shared prayer for Harvest with our friends from Asia, giving thanks and reflecting together as a community.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Thursday 1st October.

Social Media

We are excited to have launched our **new Rayndrops Preschool** **Facebook page**, giving us a dedicated space to share some of the wonderful learning, activities and experiences taking place in Preschool. Please visit the page and give us a **follow** to keep up to date with life at Rayndrops!

As part of our approach to keeping children safe online, we are adopting the principle **"Change the Angle, Not the Story."** This means that on public social media we will increasingly share photographs taken from behind, over a shoulder, focusing on busy hands or capturing the activity rather than children's faces.

We can still share the excitement, creativity and fantastic experiences taking place at Rayndrops — **we are simply changing the angle, not the story.** Families will continue to see more individual photographs of their own children through **Seesaw**, in line with their permissions.

Key Dates

"You asked and we listened"

To help support the planning and arrangements of attending our significant adult days in 2027 we are pleased to share with you that our Significant Female sessions will take place on Friday 5th March both in the morning and afternoon. Our significant Male sessions will take place on Friday 18th June both in the morning and afternoon.

We will share more details regarding our key events nearer the time:

• Thursday 1st October -09:15am	Pre-School and Reception Harvest Festival
• Thursday 15th October- 09:45am	Prospective Parents Tour Reception School Starters 2027
• Tuesday 20th October -13:45	Prospective Parents Tour Reception School Starters 2027
• WB 26th October	Half Term