

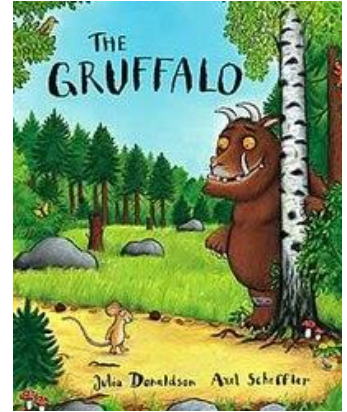
# PANDAS' TOPIC NEWSLETTER

## Autumn Term 2025

### Oh no, it's a Gruffalo! (5 Weeks)

### Jingle Bells (2 Weeks)

During this topic, the children will be immersed in all things Gruffalo! They will start off the topic by carrying out a 'Gruffalo hunt'. This will involve listening to the story and then going on a trail to find all of the characters from the story. We will be describing the characters and creating instructions to 'catch a Gruffalo'. The children will then move on to character descriptions using adjectives and nouns. Our children working within the Early Years Foundation Stage will enjoy a range of Gruffalo related activities in their Discover and Explore. **We look forward to sharing all of our wonderful learning with you at our Gruffalo Exhibition on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.**



In maths, the children working at a Year 2 level of learning will cover measurement and shape. The children accessing a Year 1 level of learning will cover addition and subtraction, place value and shape and the children working at an EYFS level will deepen their understanding of numbers to 8, learn about number bonds and compare values.

In science, the children will be learning all about plants! We will discuss the parts of a plant and learn about what a plant needs by growing our own. We will also find out the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. In art, we will be using clay to create Gruffalo themed sculptures and learning about Jackson Pollock and his splatter paintings. In History, the children will think about their own past and yearly traditions. They will also learn the history behind Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. Additionally, the children will learn through discover and explore sessions, applying what they have learnt into their play.

We will spend the last two weeks of term engaging in Christmas or winter activities, which form our short 'Jingle Bells' topic. The children will enjoy learning Christmas songs and will have lots of fun making cards and other festive crafts. In our English lessons the children will be creating their own or a class acrostic poem based on a Christmas related word! **We are very excited to invite you to Pandas Christmas Singing Concert in our music room at 9:15am on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Your child can wear a festive outfit or accessory for this performance.**



# Home Learning Activity

There are many activities that you could do to support our topic at home. We do understand that life at home is very busy but it is really good for the children to see that learning extends beyond the classroom. Below are a few ideas that could inspire you:

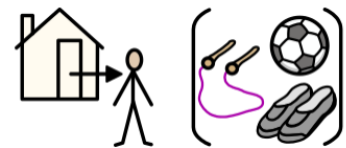
- Create a Gruffalo scene using resources of your choice. Can you remember the characters and the setting?
- Plant a seed and share photos of how its grown and what you did to look after it. (e.g. cress or broad beans)
- Design and create a sculpture out of clay or any other sort of modelling dough.
- Create a 'Gruffalo trap' to share with the class.

We look forward to seeing your fantastic home learning. Each child will be able to share their home learning with the class and will receive a certificate for completing it too.

Please can you send in your child's home learning at the latest by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.

## PE

Our PE this half term will be outdoors, therefore the children will need jogging bottoms, trainers, a top and a jumper. Over this half term, the children will be learning ball skills. This will focus on increasing control with a ball through throwing, catching, dribbling and kicking.



**Forest School** – The children will go to Forest School every Monday. They will be introduced to more tools and develop their skills in those already used. The children will also get to observe the making of a fire and enjoy some cooking! Please send in a pair of wellies with your child if you have not done so already. We will provide your child with waterproof overalls.

Your child's PE bag will be sent home at the end of each half term for a wash. Please ensure that a full kit is provided. Any earrings must be removed (tape is not permitted) on PE days and long hair must always be tied back.

## PSHE & Religion and Worldviews

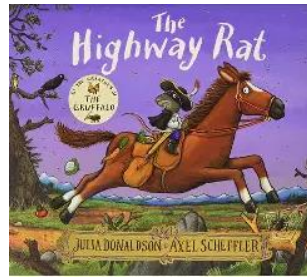
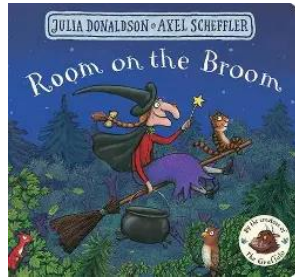
This half term, the focus for our PSHE lessons will be 'Celebrating Differences'. We will also learn about bullying behaviours and what to do if this happens in school.

In Religion and Worldviews, the children will continue learning about Christianity. We will be discussing what Christmas means to Christians and how it is celebrated.



## Focus Author

This half term our amazing author is Julia Donaldson who has written many well-known children's books. We will be reading a range of her wonderful stories and carrying out learning based on some of the books.



## Supporting at Home

We are so incredibly proud of the children and the hard work that they are putting into their learning. We know that this is due to the partnership we have formed with you as parents and carers. Please continue to read with your child at least 3 times a week and record this in their reading record. If you're unsure about how to support your child with their learning at home, please let us know and we will be more than willing to help and support you.

## Calendar Dates

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Canford Heath Infant School's Open Evening for prospective parents

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 'Sparks in the Dark' Fireworks Evening at Haymoor Junior School

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day assembly

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November- Choose Respect Day (children to wear odd socks)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Road safety assembly

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need – non-uniform

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> & Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Days

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Non-uniform day and Christmas Fair

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Pandas Gruffalo Exhibition 2:00pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch and jumper day

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Pandas Christmas singing concert (Christmas themed clothes) 9:15am

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Non-school uniform Christmas party day

Specific letters about some of these events will follow shortly.

Thank you for your support.  
Miss White and the Pandas' team