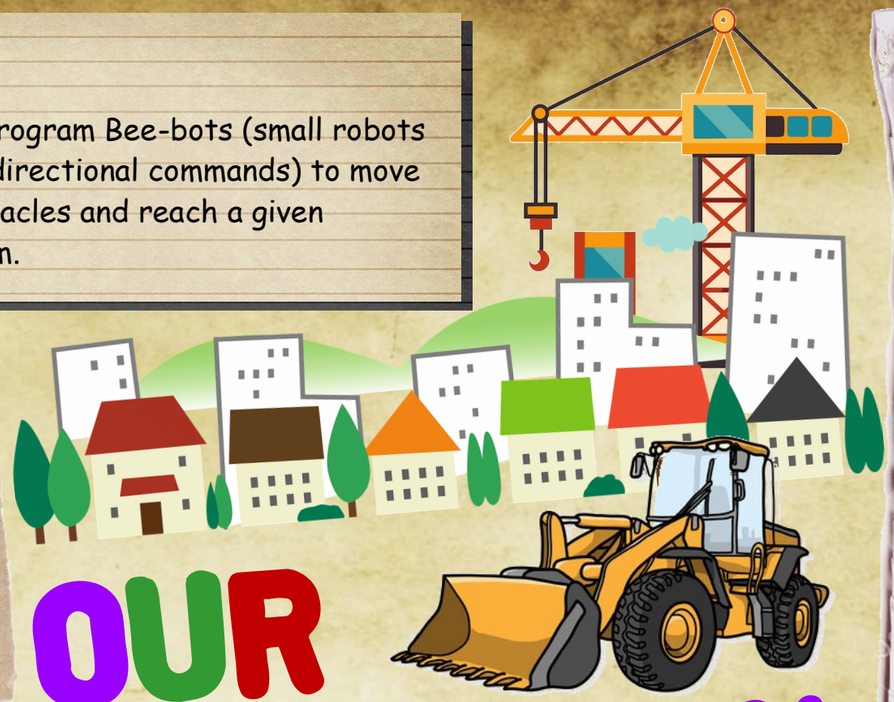
OUR CHANGING TOWN

DORMICE & HEDGEHOGS – AUTUMN 2026

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



PE

Ball skills

We will be developing our hand-eye coordination by playing lots of games involving throwing, catching, rackets, balls and balloons. We will continue to have PE with Mr Butler twice a week.

Computing

We will be learning to program Bee-bots (small robots that follow a series of directional commands) to move around maps, avoid obstacles and reach a given position in the classroom.

English

We will begin the half-term by returning to story writing, using *Last Stop on Market Street*, by Matt de la Peña as our starting point. We will use this text to explore the way that characters and settings are described, and will also be working on the use of conjunctions to link ideas together. After that, we will move on to letter writing, this time using *Dragon Post* by Emma Yarlett as our core text. We will learn about the way letters are organised and then write some of our own, asking for help and describing our discoveries!

Throughout the term, we will continue to work on sentence construction, ensuring that we use full stops and capital letters correctly.

Science

Seasonal changes

We will continue to explore the four seasons that make up our year, identifying the way that our environment changes as we move from autumn to winter. We will head outside to collect evidence of these changes, and record our observations. We will also investigate the ways in which different animals prepare for the colder weather.

The Arts

We will be learning to work with clay this half-term, exploring different ways to shape and join clay pieces. Linked to Diwali, we will be making clay diva pots, and then later in the term we will create simple Christmas decorations. Over the course of the term, we will be doing lots of singing and dancing as we prepare for our Christmas show!



Maths

We will begin by focussing on mental addition and subtraction, becoming quicker and more confident in our use of numbers to 100 by building on our knowledge of place value and number bonds. We will then apply these skills to measure and missing number problems.

Later in the term we will move on to working with money, making totals using a variety of different coins and working out change when we are shopping. We will then investigate the language of comparison, using phrases like *difference*, *more*, *less* and *fewer*, before finishing the term by beginning to estimate and measure using different scales.

Humanities

History

We will continue to explore the idea of change over time, recognising that the world around us does not stay the same and that the lives we live now are different to those experienced by our parents and grandparents when they were our age. We will be thinking about our town in particular, looking at older photos and maps of Stevenage and using these resources to investigate the way that it has changed over the last 100 years.

RE

We will be exploring the question, Why should we care for others? and thinking about all the things we do to support and help people who are important to us. Later in the term we will also be developing our understanding of the Christmas Story.

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Ideas for supporting learning at home:

PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- BBC Bitesize has some great learning resources at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3tbwmn/ where you can learn more about coding and begin to create simple programs.

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Our aim is to turn all our children into fluent readers, so they should be able to read the books they're bringing home with speed, accuracy and confidence.
- We continue to use the Read Write Inc scheme for our daily phonics sessions, and there's guidance on supporting this at home available at: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/
- You can also find advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf

Science

- Throughout the year we are exploring how our environment changes with the seasons. You could build on this at home in lots of ways - exploring the park, making maps or looking for signs of autumn and winter on the way to and from school. What do we do differently as the weather gets colder? What do animals do to prepare for the colder months ahead?

The Arts

We're learning to work with clay this half-term. If you'd like to try something similar at home, have a look at some of these sites:

www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/sculpture

www.hobbycraft.co.uk/ideas/easy-clay-makes-for-kids.html

www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zd28qp3



Maths

- Calculate change using subtraction at the shops - we had £10 when we left home and we've spent £6, so how much should we have left? How much will we need to buy these presents for Nan and Granddad?
- Count down days until Christmas or the holidays - we've just opened door number 5 on the advent calendar, so how many chocolates are left? How many sleeps are there until the Christmas holidays?
- Add up the judges scores on Strictly to work out each couple's score - how far ahead is the leader?
- Use dried pasta, rice or marbles to add groups, make totals or subtract.

Humanities

- We're learning about the way that things change over time - so any discussions that link to this would be really useful. What things in your area have changed over the last few years? Did the toys that your children play with exist when you were a child? What different things did you do when you were their age? If you're visiting grandparents or other (older) relatives before Christmas, compare each generation's experiences - what's changed and what has stayed the same?
- In RE, we will be learning about the Christmas story, so as you start getting the decorations out and thinking about presents, talk together about the stories behind our traditions. There are some lovely animated versions available on the BBC website.