

# Welcome Back to Juniper Class!



WHAT'S ON

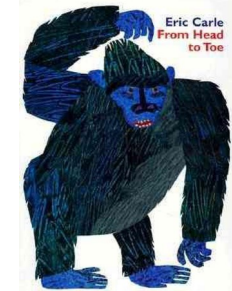
Autumn 1  
2024

## Theme for the term

This term our topic in Juniper Class is Look at Me—to help us engage with this topic, please send in family photos you are happy for us to share in class.

## Key texts

From Head to Toe—Eric Carle



### All about me:

Hello and a warm welcome to Juniper Class! We hope you had a wonderful holiday. I am Victoria, the class teacher. I will be working alongside our teaching assistants Zoe, Rachel and our midday supervisor, Teesh. I have been teaching for over 10 years now, predominantly in EYFS and in more recent years at Doubletrees. I am a PhD student researcher specialising in SEN/ASD who loves exploring communication and sensory based strategies for our learners. I love walks along the coast and listening to music. I love growing flowers in my garden, especially seeing how tall I can grow sunflowers every Summer!

### **FOCUS SESSION: Intensive Interaction**

Intensive Interaction is an approach used to promote early communication and social skills. This is facilitated throughout each day, consisting of adults getting to know learners and their motivating interests alongside their preferred means of communication. An example of this includes mirroring vocalisations or actions with identical resources. This is a great way to build tolerance to others playing or working in close proximity to enable learners to expand on their solitary play or engagement. Intensive Interaction is led purely by the learner and it is important for adults to acknowledge and respond appropriately, especially when a learner may terminate the interaction.

This approach develops the following 'fundamentals of communication': eye contact, facial expressions, vocalisations and speech, turn taking, and the structure of conversation.

It is important that adults apply the following: mirroring—copying what the learner is doing; expanding—where a learner is responding positively to our interactions, adults can extend actions in a similar manner; pausing to watch and respond—this will allow the adult to recognise how the learner responds and how to encourage these interactions during other opportunities.

### Key dates and reminders:

Swimming is on a Tuesday and Thursday. EYFS learners will swim from January. Year 1 and Year 2 will swim from September in small groups. PE is on a Friday. Please send in a swimming kit and a PE kit on a Monday.

We facilitate shared snack times so please send in snacks to share on a Monday.

→ DON'T FORGET!

# Reminders



## Key vocab this term:

- ♦ More
- ♦ Same/different
- ♦ Finished
- ♦ Hello/Goodbye

Please see the attached Makaton signs so you can support us with this.

## Things you can do at home to help:

- ♦ Share the home reading books with your child, using the Makaton key word sheets to support.
- ♦ Promote self-help skills to develop independence e.g. hand-washing, finding own bottle at mealtimes.
- ♦ Engage with lots of movement using the whole body e.g. climbing, ball skills, tricycles.

## Personal Learning Goals (PLGs)

Please look out for new targets in coming weeks and do feel free to ask any questions about these.

For updates, information and useful contacts, please check our school website and Facebook pages.

[www.doubletrees.org.uk](http://www.doubletrees.org.uk)