PALM RIVER ACADEMY

Early Years Weekly Newsletter

QUARTER 2 · WEEK 7 · FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026



This week Nursery discovered insects and Kindergarten found out how Arctic animals stay warm.

Nursery searched a rice tray for toy insects, painted their own butterflies and sang “Incy Wincy Spider.” Kindergarten learned the sound or and the heart words to and do, added within 10, explored grassland and freshwater habitats, and tested how blubber keeps Arctic animals warm. For Thanksgiving, both classes talked about what they are thankful for, and Kindergarten made a Thankful Wreath.

Nursery

Insects

Weekly Learning Focus

Nursery explored the world of **Insects** through songs, sensory play, hands-on activities and art, learning to recognize and name different insects and to notice what makes each one special.

Bugs Up Close

Children searched a sensory tray of rice for toy insects, then observed and named each one they found. New words: **butterfly, bee, ladybird, caterpillar, ant, fly, dragonfly** and **spider**. They described what they saw with simple sentences: **"I can see a butterfly." "It's a spider." "Look, a spider!"**

English in Action

Children sang and danced to "Fly Fly the Butterfly" and "Incy Wincy Spider," played insect feel-and-guess games, and matched animals to their ears. In phonics they kept practicing letter recognition, letter sounds and tracing. In Doodle Town they continued **My Body**, singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," and they used everyday English in routines such as handwashing. They are growing more confident recognizing letters and telling them apart, joining in songs and class routines, and following simple instructions in English.

Numbers & Reasoning

Children kept counting and recognizing numbers within 10, and explored basic shapes and colors through simple sorting activities.

Make & Create

Children painted and decorated their own butterflies and enjoyed free cutting and sticking. As they worked, they listened to instructions, followed simple directions and used familiar English words, especially **butterfly** and **spider**.

Moving & Playing

Children dropped balls into a moving basket, used small rackets to guide balls to a target, and jumped up, into and out of a hoop, following **left** and **right** instructions. These games built coordination, balance and body awareness.

Growing Together

For Thanksgiving, children talked about what it means to be thankful and when we say **"Thank you."** They are learning to appreciate the people and things around them and to show it in small, everyday ways.

Looking Ahead

Next week Nursery dives into **Ocean Animals**, discovering creatures that live under the sea through songs, stories, games and hands-on activities.

Phonics The letters **A, T, I** and **C**: recognizing each letter, its sound and tracing it.

Doodle Town Units 4 and 5, **My Body and Movement**: body parts and what we can do with them.









Kindergarten

Grassland & Freshwater Habitats

Weekly Learning Focus

Kindergarten learned the digraph **or** and the heart words **to** and **do**, practiced **addition within 10**, explored **grassland and freshwater habitats**, and found out **how Arctic animals stay warm**.

Phonics & Early Reading

Children learned the sound **or** and reviewed the vowel digraphs **ai, ie, oa** and **ee**, blending sounds to read words such as **rain, boat, pie, feet, corn** and **fork**. They read and wrote the sentences **"I hop to the mat"** and **"I can do it,"** read *Just a Storm* to practice blending, and practiced writing the letter U.

Numbers & Reasoning

Children added within 10, counting on their fingers, and wrote the addition number sentences. They also broke the numbers **2** and **3** into smaller parts to see how numbers are made.

Understanding the World

Children explored **grassland** and **freshwater** habitats: what each one looks like and which animals live there, and practiced describing them in English. They also listened to *How and Why Animals Adapt* and talked about how animals adapt to their habitats to survive.

Investigate & Describe

How do Arctic animals stay warm? Children covered their fingers with Play-Doh to stand for a layer of fat, or **blubber**, then put them in ordinary water and in ice water to compare how cold it felt. New words: **Arctic, blubber, fat** and **warm**.

Make & Create

For Thanksgiving, children made a **Thankful Wreath**. They wrote what they are thankful for on paper leaves, used the leaves to decorate the wreath, and shared their thankful words with the class.

Moving & Playing

Outdoors, children held and moved a big rope together in a Team Rope Challenge, hit and controlled balls with small rackets, passed a ball around a circle with their feet, and raced to collect colorful balls into a basket, building balance, coordination and teamwork.

Growing Together

Children showed real independence, writing their own thankful messages on the paper leaves.

Looking Ahead

Phonics More digraphs and heart words.

Numbers & Reasoning More addition within 10.

Understanding the World **Weather Around Us**.









Thanksgiving at PRA









Family Reminders

DEC 1

Show & Tell. Children are invited to bring a favorite item from home to share with their friends.

Tuesday, December 1

DEC 4

Water Play, if the weather allows. Please pack a change of clothes for your child.

Friday, December 4

Thank you for being part of our learning community. We look forward to another week of discovery, creativity, and growing confidence in English!

Warm regards,
Palm River Academy English Center

Read it online