

Year: Reception
Term: Autumn 1
2026 – 2027

We have had a fantastic start to the school year and the children are settling into Reception beautifully. Over the next few weeks, our focus will be on helping the children build relationships, develop independence and become confident learners as they learn our school routines and expectations.

Communication and Language

The children will be learning to...

- Begin to listen carefully during stories and group times.
- Begin to understand and follow simple instructions.
- Begin to join in with songs, rhymes and familiar stories.
- Begin to take turns in conversations.
- Begin to talk about their experiences and interests.
- Begin to use new vocabulary in their play and conversations.
- Begin to answer simple questions.
- Begin to express their wants, needs and ideas to others.
- Begin to focus their attention during adult-led activities.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be learning to...

- Select and use activities and resources independently.
- Show increasing confidence in new social situations.
- Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people within the safe context of the school environment.
- Follow the school rules more consistently.
- Remember and follow rules without adult reminders.
- Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.
- Form positive relationships with adults and friendships with their peers.



Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

The children will be learning to...

- Begin to develop strength, balance and coordination through play.
- Begin to move confidently in a variety of ways, including running, jumping, climbing and dancing.
- Begin to use large outdoor equipment safely.
- Begin to negotiate space and obstacles with increasing awareness.
- Begin to move safely around the classroom and outdoor environment.
- Begin to take part in a range of physical activities with confidence.



PE lessons will begin in Autumn 2.

Fine Motor Skills

The children will be learning to...

- Build their finger strength through a range of practical activities.
- Begin to use scissors safely and independently.
- Begin to use paintbrushes with increasing control.
- Begin to use cutlery independently.
- Begin to hold pencils and other mark-making tools with increasing control.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.



Literacy

The children will be learning to...

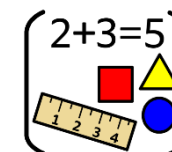
- To enjoy sharing a story with others.
- To listen attentively to a story.
- To talk about what is happening in a picture.
- To join in with repeated words and phrases in a story.
- To show an interest in books and stories.
- To talk about their favourite book.
- To retell parts of a familiar story.
- To predict what might happen next in a story.



Mathematics

The children will be learning to...

- Subitising within 3.
- Focus on counting skills.
- Explore how all numbers are made of 1s.
- Focus on composition of 3 and 4.
- Subitise objects and sounds.
- Comparison of sets – just by looking.
- Use the language of comparison: more than and fewer than.



Phonics

Phase 2 graphemes: s, a, t, p, i, n, g, o, c, k, e, u, r, h, b, f, l.
Tricky words: is, the, I.



Writing

- To develop pencil control.
- To use a comfortable pencil grip.
- To draw pictures to represent ideas.
- To talk about their drawings and marks.
- To develop fine motor skills for writing.
- To recognise and attempt to write their name.
- To form some letters correctly.



Understanding the World

The children will be learning to...

- Begin to make sense of their own life story and family history.
- Talk about members of their immediate family and community.
- Name and describe people who are familiar to them.
- Explore different countries and talk about similarities and differences they notice.
- Recognise environments that are different from the one in which they live.
- Use simple maps to find and discuss information.



Welly Wednesday

On Wednesday afternoons, the children will take part in a range of different outdoor learning activities. Please ensure that your child has named clothing suitable for all weather conditions, including a waterproof coat and a pair of named wellies, as we will be going outside whatever the weather.



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be learning to...

- Begin to explore a range of creative materials and tools.
- Begin to make marks, drawings and paintings to express their ideas.
- Begin to create simple models and pictures using a variety of materials.
- Begin to share their creations with others.
- Begin to explore colour, texture and shape through art and play.
- Begin to sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes.
- Begin to join in with music and movement activities.
- Begin to engage in imaginative and role-play activities.

