

Autumn Term Reception

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to begin a new school year filled with learning, exploration, friendships and fun.

During the Autumn Term, we will be focusing on helping the children settle confidently into school life, develop positive relationships, become increasingly independent and build the foundations for their learning.

Our curriculum is based on the seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Through a mixture of carefully planned activities, child-led play, stories, songs, exploration and everyday routines, the children will develop skills across all seven areas. Here is an overview of what we will be learning this term, along with some simple ways you can support your child at home.

Miss Taylor and Miss Sunner



Communication and Language

Communication and language is at the heart of everything we do in Reception. We will encourage the children to listen carefully, express their ideas and feelings, develop their vocabulary and confidently join conversations.

This term we will:

- Listen carefully to stories, rhymes and songs.
- Learn and use new vocabulary.
- Talk about our experiences, families, interests and feelings.
- Develop our ability to listen and respond to questions.
- Follow instructions and take turns when speaking.
- Retell familiar stories using pictures, props and role play.
- Develop confidence when speaking to adults and other children.



How to help at home....

- Share stories every day and ask questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?"
- Encourage your child to tell you about pictures rather than simply naming what they see.
- Sing nursery rhymes and traditional songs together.
- Give your child time to answer questions without rushing them.
- Encourage them to listen carefully and follow simple instructions.



Physical Development

Physical development includes both large movements and the smaller movements needed for everyday tasks and early writing. We will provide lots of opportunities to develop strength, coordination, balance and control.

This term we will:

- Develop gross motor skills through running, jumping, climbing and balancing.
- Explore different ways of moving.
- Strengthen our hands and fingers through play.
- Practise using pencils, paintbrushes and other tools safely.

How you can help at home:

- Visit parks and playgrounds and encourage climbing, balancing and jumping.
- Play ball games together.
- Provide opportunities for drawing, colouring, painting and cutting.
- Encourage your child to use cutlery independently.
- Let them practise buttons, zips and fastenings.
- Try activities such as playdough, threading beads, Lego and puzzles to strengthen little fingers.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

A big part of Reception is learning how to become confident, independent and resilient learners. We will support the children as they develop friendships, manage their emotions and learn how to work cooperatively with others.



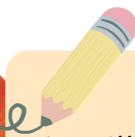
This term we will:

- Settle into our new routines and classroom.
- Develop friendships and learn to play cooperatively.
- Talk about different feelings and emotions.
- Learn strategies for managing big feelings.
- Develop independence with dressing, toileting and looking after belongings.
- Learn to share, take turns and resolve simple disagreements..

How you can help at home...

- Encourage your child to do things independently, even if it takes a little longer.
- Let them practise putting on their coat, shoes and getting dressed.
- Talk about feelings using words such as happy, worried, frustrated, excited and proud.
- Praise effort rather than just success: "You kept trying even when it was difficult!"
- Encourage your child to take turns when playing games.
- Talk about how other people might be feeling.





Literacy

We will develop a love of books, stories, rhymes and language while beginning our journey into reading and writing.

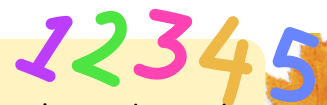
This term we will:

- Enjoy a wide range of stories, poems and rhymes.
- Learn to handle books carefully and talk about what we see.
- Learn and practise our phonics sounds.
- Blend sounds together to read simple words.
- Begin to recognise and read familiar words.
- Develop our ability to hear and identify sounds in words.
- Practise writing our names and forming letters.



How to help at home...

- Read a story together every day.
- Visit the library and allow your child to choose books.
- Encourage your child to spot letters and sounds in the environment.
- Practise the phonics sounds taught in school.
- Play rhyming games: "What rhymes with cat?".
- Praise attempts at writing rather than focusing on perfect letter formation.
- Talk about the pictures and ask your child to predict what might happen.



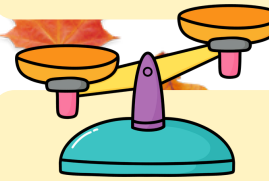
Maths

We will develop children's confidence with numbers through practical experiences, games, songs and everyday activities.

We will focus on understanding numbers rather than simply learning to recite them.

This term we will:

- Develop secure counting skills.
- Explore numbers and quantities.
- Recognise and represent numbers.
- Compare groups using language such as more, fewer, greater and the same.
- Explore patterns and shapes.
- Use mathematical language in everyday play.



How to help at home...

- Count everyday objects such as toys, steps, socks or pieces of fruit.
- Ask your child to find "5 things" rather than simply asking them to count.
- Look for numbers when you are out and about.
- Play board games involving counting.
- Compare quantities: "Who has more?" or "Do we have enough for everyone?"
- Explore shapes around your home.



Expressive Arts and Design

We want our children to be creative, imaginative and confident in expressing themselves. They will have many opportunities to explore art, music, dance, drama and imaginative play.

This term we will:

- Explore different art materials and techniques.
- Draw, paint, print, collage and create models.
- Explore colour, shape and pattern.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Explore rhythm and different musical instruments.
- Move and dance to music.
- Use role play to develop imagination.
- Create our own stories and characters.
- Explore different ways to express ideas and feelings.



How to help at home...

- Provide opportunities for drawing, painting and making.
- Let your child explore materials without worrying about the finished product.
- Sing songs together and make up your own.
- Dance and move to different types of music.
- Encourage imaginative play using everyday objects.
- Make puppets from socks or paper bags and create a story together.



Understanding the World

Children are naturally curious about the world around them. We will encourage them to ask questions, investigate, observe and make connections with their experiences.

This term we will:

- Talk about ourselves, our families and our communities.
- Explore similarities and differences between people.
- Learn about our local environment.
- Observe seasonal changes as we move into autumn and winter.
- Explore plants, animals and the natural world.
- Investigate materials and their properties.
- Talk about past and present experiences.
- Explore technology and how it is used in everyday life.
- Celebrate different cultures, traditions and experiences.



How to help at home...

- Go on nature walks and look closely at leaves, trees, plants and animals.
- Collect autumn treasures such as leaves, conkers and twigs.
- Talk about how the weather and seasons are changing.
- Share photographs and stories about family members and events.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and investigate things they notice.
- Talk about how everyday technology works and how it helps us.