

Reception Autumn Term Curriculum 2026

Who am I?

Listening, Attention and Understanding

- Understand how to listen carefully.
- Participate in small group class discussions.
- Listen to familiar stories with increasing attention and recall.
- Ask and answer simple questions.

Speaking

- Speak in full, short, simple sentences.
- Follow simple two-step instructions.
- Join in with repeated refrains, nursery rhymes and familiar songs.
- Learn and use newly taught vocabulary in context.
- Share and talk about their own experiences and family celebrations.



Understanding the World

Through exploration and experiences, your child will develop a sense of the world around them. They will:

- be able to name and describe people who are familiar to them.
- explore similarities and differences between ourselves and our families.
- explore and understand the effect of the changing seasons in the natural world around them.
- learn about different cultural celebrations, including Diwali and Christmas. The children will have the opportunity to explore artefacts relating to these festivals.



world

Phonics and Reading

The children will follow the Little Wandle Phonics scheme. They will be taught the following phonemes and tricky words:

- s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l
- ff ll ss j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng nk
- *I is the put pull full as and has his her go no to into she out we me be*

The children will also be taught to segment and blend two and three letter words during weekly Phonic and Reading sessions.

The sharing of a diverse range of books and reading together is a key part of learning in Reception.



Expressive Arts and Design

Through practical experiences, the children will have the opportunity to:

- explore different materials and make marks with a variety of media.
- explore colour and how colours can be changed.
- create drawings of their families and self-portraits.
- experience and react to different styles of music.
- recite poems and sing a variety of songs including nursery rhymes.
- explore and use different musical instruments, learning how to keep a pulse.



Mathematics

- Subitise (instantly recognise how many objects there are without needing to count) quantities up to 4 and identify sub-groups within larger groups (for example, 1 and 2 make 3 altogether).
- To understand the number system to 5 and use this to count amounts with 1:1 correspondence.
- To explore composition using collections of objects and begin to understand the terms of 'parts' and 'wholes'.
- To compare sets of objects using 'more than,' 'fewer than' and 'equal'.
- In addition, the children will also explore 2D shapes, spatial vocabulary, repeating patterns and mass and capacity.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

We follow the Cambridgeshire Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) scheme of work. The children will:

- learn names and develop relationships with adults and peers in their class.
- learn to ask an adult for help.
- begin to learn to share and take turns with others.
- share the class rules and routines.
- begin to identify, name and regulate their emotions.



Physical Development



All children will take part in daily activities designed to develop their fine motor skills, helping to build the foundations needed for writing.

We also recognise the important link between gross motor development and a child's ability to sit comfortably, hold a pencil correctly and develop spatial awareness. To support this in Reception, children will take part in weekly PE sessions, enjoy additional opportunities to use the Key Stage 1 trim trail, participate in adult-led playground games and access a variety of planned activities within the Reception outdoor learning environment.

Additional Enrichment

We will be taking a tour of our school and grounds to help the children become familiar with their new environment.

Throughout the year, we will celebrate a range of cultural events and festivals that reflect the diversity of our school community and the children in our cohort. If your family celebrates a special occasion or festival that you would be happy to share with us, please speak to a member of the Reception team. We would love to hear about and learn from your family's traditions.