

Reception Spring Term Curriculum 2026



Theme that will be explored across all areas of learning:

Who is in my Community?

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention and Understanding

- Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.
- Listen with increasing attention.
- Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
- Ask and answer simple questions to find out more and to check their understanding; for example, I wonder why...?

Speaking

- Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
- Learn new vocabulary through stories and topics and use throughout the day.
- Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking.
- Listen to and talk about non-fiction texts and stories to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Learn rhymes, poems and songs.
- Describe events in some detail.

Literacy

Reading Comprehension

Through an exploration of a variety of texts, children will:

- talk about stories they have heard;
- orally retell a simple story in a group;
- re-enact and innovate stories and poems they have heard in their play;
- use vocabulary they have encountered in books;
- be able to identify non-fiction texts using their knowledge of features.

Writing

Using their increasing phonics knowledge, children will:

- enjoy creating their own texts
- practise writing short sentences showing an awareness of finger spaces;
- spell some tricky words accurately;
- form most lower case letters correctly.



Phonics

In Spring, the children will be taught:

- ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er
- Words with double letters: dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp, ff
- Tricky Words: was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure
- To read longer words, words with two or more digraphs and words ending in -ing.



They will apply their phonics skills during their decoding, prosody and comprehension reading sessions.

Expressive Arts and Design

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

- explore and use a range of materials to construct with;
- explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings;
- create drawings of the natural world, including animals and plants;
- through cooking, explore the changes that occur when ingredients are mixed together, cooked or cooled;
- listen attentively, move to and talk about a variety of music, developing the ability to express their feelings and responses;
- sing songs on their own or in groups, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.



Understanding the World

- Discover new knowledge about the roles of people in our community and think about the impact that they have on our lives.
- Explore and understand the changes that happen in the natural world as we transition from winter to spring.
- Discover more about recycling and how materials can be re-used as part of caring for the environment.
- Learn about different cultural celebrations, including Lunar New Year and Easter.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will learn and explore:

- how they see themselves as a valuable individual;
- to express their feelings and the feelings of others;
- how to show perseverance and resilience in the face of challenge;
- how to build constructive and respectful relationships;
- how to identify and begin to moderate their own feelings, socially and emotionally.



Physical Development

- Use a range of large and small apparatus, both indoors and outdoors, confidently and safely.
- Develop their fine motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently: for example pencils for drawing and writing, and paintbrushes.
- Weekly PE sessions continue to develop their gross motor skills. These sessions will focus on safely using the large gymnastics apparatus and develop their ball handling skills.
- Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: regular physical activity, healthy eating, cleaning teeth.



Mathematics

- Begin to identify missing parts for numbers within 5.
- Continue to develop their subitising skills for numbers within and beyond 5; increasingly connect quantities to numerals.
- Explore the structure of the numbers 6 and 7 as '5 and a bit' and connect this to finger patterns.
- Focus on equal and unequal groups when comparing numbers.
- Understand that two equal groups can be called a 'double' and connect this to finger patterns.
- Sort odd and even numbers according to their 'shape'.
- Continue to develop their understanding of the counting sequence and link cardinality and ordinality through the 'staircase' pattern.
- Join in with verbal counts beyond 20, hearing the repeated pattern within the counting system.



Additional Enrichment

Members of the community to visit the children throughout the term, including a GP, vet, the fire service and health visitor.

Wednesday 11th February: Library visit

Thursday 5th March 2026: World Book Day

Wednesday 25th March: Showcase Assembly