

Reception Class

Autumn Term 2025

Where Little Steps Lead to Big Futures



Literacy:

Lots of our literacy work will be linked to the project work we are covering. We will have plenty of opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills as we work through the Early years foundation stage curriculum, this is a really key focus for our development. We aim to create a language rich environment.

Talk For Writing – this term we will start on Talk for Writing units to help us develop writing in different styles. All other classes in school use this method of teaching English and writing. We will be writing our own lost toy story towards the end of the term and developing key story telling skills using the 5 sentence story method.

Phonics – We will be using the Twinkl Phonics scheme and we will teach two sessions of this every day. Our morning phonics sessions will be covering phase two, learning single phonemes, blending to read and segmenting to spell. Our afternoon sessions will start this half term being a level 1-2 unit helping with blending and segmenting. After half term our afternoon sessions will be a writing focus. We will also move onto phase 3 after half term.

Rhyme of the week – we will learn a nursery rhyme or short poem each week.

Reading skills – we have chosen a core of quality texts which we think are valuable to read before they leave reception class and we will be looking and discussing the vocabulary in these, reading them with children's support and input, discussing what we have read, talking about the structures of these stories and completing comprehension activities. The stories we have chosen cover traditional tales, rhyming stories, stories celebrating diversity, stories illuminating social and emotional aspects of life.

Mathematics:

We will be working using the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and using the Maths Mastery approach which uses practical activities to explore and apply maths concepts.

- Numbers** – we will be working on recognising amounts and subitising, counting objects to 10. Comparing numbers and looking at how amounts are made up. We will learn about number conservation (when objects are moved the number stays the same).

- Shape, space, and measures** – we will be taking part in practical activities involving weight, capacity and measuring and comparing. Children will be recognising and recreating patterns with 2D shapes and talking about the properties of these shapes.

- Number fun sessions** – in our daily mental maths sessions we have been using the NCETM programme using the CBeebies Number blocks. This enables children to think about the quantity of number and how they can be added and subtracted. Each week we will have a number of the week which we will explore – looking at its composition and how that amount can be represented in different ways.

Children will have many opportunities to apply their skills in practical activities, wherever possible these will be linked with the topic we are studying.

Personal, social and Emotional development:

This is a very important aspect of the foundation stage curriculum and is interwoven into all other subjects. We will learn about our schools learning powers being "busy beavers", "wise whales", "team ant" and "tough tortoises". Running as a key thread through all this are our schools "Bee values" – "be respectful", "be safe" and "be ready". We will often talk about what makes us happy and reflect on the good things that have happened each day at school. We will introduce the happiness jar. These skills will help children to develop resilience and create a happy self, aspects of our curriculum which we know are essential.

Understanding of the world:

This is an area that is very much dependent on the children's interests; but we know we will explore animals that live in our local area, our homes and families and our village. Children will talk about their journey to school and what they see on their way to school. There are also lots of celebrations and festivals which we will learn about this term: Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance, Christmas.

Lots of this area of the curriculum is covered in Forest Schools sessions, observing the changes of the seasons.

We are hoping to do lots of cooking this term – making observations about the changes that occur when we are cooking!

Physical development:

PE lessons will take place on a Friday afternoon with Mrs Johnson please can children come into school wearing their PE kit. This term children will be introduced to PE and then after half term start gymnastics using the apparatus in the hall, jumping, climbing and balancing. In the foundation stage this aspect of the curriculum also incorporates fine motor skills work, every morning children will take part in a "finger skills" session, children will work in a focus group with an adult practising letter formation. This term we will be focusing on name writing and letter formation of the phonemes we are learning. There is a "rhyme" to help with letter formation which we will learn along with learning the phonemes. These will be sent home to support you at home in the home learning folders.

Creative development:

This is interwoven to all aspects of our topic; children will have plenty of chances to express their ideas creatively. A creative skills lesson will be taught in the week, usually on a Wednesday by Mrs Jones, these will generally have an art or music focus. Children will at all other times have the opportunity to choose art and music activities, role play, model make or use loose parts to create transient art pieces.

As part of the continuous provision there will be a role play area in the classroom, this will change as the term progresses reflecting children's interests. We offer lots of fabrics, hats and accessories which children can use to make their own costumes for role play. They can use the resources we have in the outdoor space to create their own role play activities using the large loose parts.

Communication and language:

Speaking, listening and understanding are a big aspect of the foundation stage curriculum, children will have many opportunities to do this through class discussions, small group discussions, circle time, talking table time where we will look at items that we have found in the discovery box. This term we will be focusing on children becoming good listeners as well as good speakers. They will have lots of opportunities to talk about their own experiences and develop vocabulary both in indoor and outdoor learning. We look at building vocabulary through our whole class reading sessions where "Maggie" our class magpie helps us find really interesting words which we can use in the stories that we read.

