

Reception Spring First Half Term Overview 2026

PRIME AREA: Communication and Language	
<p>During this half term, children will continue to develop their speaking, listening, and understanding skills through a wide range of play-based and adult-led activities. They are encouraged to listen attentively in a variety of situations, including whole-class discussions, small group work, and story times.</p> <p>The children will be supported to use full sentences, extend their ideas, and explain their thinking. Through role play, storytelling and discussion of stories and real-life experiences, children learn to take turns in conversation and to speak clearly so that others can understand them.</p> <p>Children will be introduced to new vocabulary linked to 'Winter' and 'Space' and will be encouraged to use this vocabulary independently in their play and discussions.</p>	<p>How you can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child to retell their favourite story to you at bedtime. Encourage them to sequence the events and use language from the story. Can they create an alternative ending to the story? • Ask children to think in advance about how they will accomplish a task. Talk through and sequence the steps together.
PRIME AREA: Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
<p>This half term, the focus of our learning will be 'Dreams and Goals,' Children will begin to understand that everyone has hopes and goals, and that they can work towards achieving them. Through stories, play, and simple activities, children are encouraged to think about what they would like to be able to do, try, or get better at. Children will also continue to develop their confidence, independence, and emotional understanding as they settle more securely into school routines and relationships. They will continue to play co-operatively and take turns with others in a range of contexts. They will learn to recognise, understand, and talk about their feelings, as well as consider the feelings of others.</p>	<p>How you can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play board games which involve turn taking, sharing and co-operation. It is important for children to have experiences of losing as well as winning.
PRIME AREA: Physical Development	
<p>During this half term, children will continue to develop both their fine and gross motor skills. We will focus on building strength, balance and coordination through a range of indoor and outdoor activities, including balancing, riding wheeled toys and ball games. Children will be encouraged to negotiate space safely and move with increasing control and confidence.</p> <p>In fine motor development, children will further develop their hand strength and control through activities such as dough disco, threading, cutting, construction and mark-making. They will continue to practice holding a pencil using a tripod grip and will work on forming letters they have learnt with increasing accuracy and control.</p>	<p>How you can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice ball skills together such as throwing, catching and balancing. • Support fine motor skills through fun activities like playdough, colouring, cutting, threading beads and building blocks. • Encourage your child to hold pencils, crayons and paintbrushes using a comfortable tripod grip. • Help your child develop independence by practicing putting on coats, fastening zips and buttons.
SPECIFIC AREA: Literacy	
Reading	How you can help:

This half term, children will continue to develop their phonological awareness by hearing, identifying and saying sounds in words. They will practice orally blending and segmenting sounds and will continue to build VC and CVC words linked to their phonics learning. Children will take part in shared reading, listening to and talking about a range of stories, poems and non-fiction texts. They will be encouraged to demonstrate understanding by answering simple questions, predicting what might happen next and talking about characters and events.

Writing

Children will develop their mark making and early writing skills. They will practice forming the letters they have learned using correct formation and developing pencil control. Children will be encouraged to write for a range of purposes, such as labels, lists and simple captions. Opportunities will be provided for children to apply their phonics knowledge to write sounds, words and simple sentences, with support as appropriate.

- Read with your child every day and talk about the story, pictures and characters.
- Encourage your child to listen for sounds in words and practice saying and blending simple sounds together.
- Help your child recognise and read familiar letters and simple words linked to their phonics learning.
- Encourage mark making and early writing through activities such as drawing, colouring, writing shopping lists or labels.
- Support your child to hold a pencil correctly and form letters using the correct formation.

SPECIFIC AREA: Mathematics

This half term in maths, the children will continue to build confidence with early number skills and practical problem-solving. They will begin by exploring addition within 10, using real objects, number stories and manipulatives to help children combine groups and understand what addition means. The children will then move on to learning about measure where they will compare length, height and weight through hands on activities. They will use everyday language such as taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, empty and full while exploring and investigating.

Following this, we will focus on number bonds to 10, helping the children learn the different pairs of numbers that make 10. They will practice recognising patterns and using resources such as tens frames to support their understanding.

To complete the half term, the children will work on subtraction within 10, learning to take away using objects, pictures and simple stories. They will begin to understand the relationship between addition and subtraction through practical activities and play.

How you can help:

- Support addition and subtraction by using everyday objects to count, combine and take away, talking together about 'how many altogether' and 'how many are left'.
- Explore measurement by comparing objects' height, length and weight, and involving you child in practical activities such as pouring, filling or cooking.
- Build counting confidence by counting steps, toys or items during daily routines and noticing numbers in the environment.

SPECIFIC AREA: Understanding the World

Our science focus for this half term is Materials. Children will explore different materials and their properties. They will have opportunities to investigate objects made from wood, metal, plastic and fabric and other everyday materials, describing how they look and feel. Through hands-on activities and simple experiments, the children will learn to sort and compare materials and think about why certain materials are used for specific purposes.

We will also be learning about the solar system, including the planets, the Sun, the Moon and the stars throughout our topic on 'Space.'

How you can help:

- Encourage your child to explore different objects at home and talk about what they are made from.
- Use words such as hard, soft, shiny, rough, smooth, bending and waterproof to build vocabulary.
- Let your child help with simple sorting activities (e.g., sorting recycling into plastic, metal and cardboard).
- Go on a 'materials hunt' around the house or outside. Ask your child to find things made of wood, metal, plastic or fabric.

SPECIFIC AREA: Expressive Arts and Design

Children will experiment with different materials and techniques in art and design, including painting, drawing, collage and model making. They will learn to use tools and materials safely and purposefully and are encouraged to talk about their creations and the choices they have made. Different enhancements will be added to our continuous provision linked to our topics of 'Winter', 'Space' and 'Chinese New Year.'

How you can help:

- Encourage your child to look carefully at colour, texture and form when drawing or painting.

Have fun spending time talking to your child at mealtimes, on the way to school or home from school, at bath times, when shopping or anytime! Please keep up the good work with reading daily to your child.