

## Reception Summer First Half Term Overview 2026

### **PRIME AREA: Communication and Language**

The children’s speaking, listening and understanding skills will continue to be developed through a range of activities and experiences. They will have the opportunity to talk in a range of contexts, to participate in conversations and discussions and to express their thoughts, ideas and knowledge using a wider vocabulary drawn from their work and experiences. Through a range of different activities, they will also be encouraged to ask questions of each other or the adults working with them. The children will continue to be encouraged to respond to questions posed by both adults and peers, answering in longer sentences and using a wider vocabulary, including words derived from their learning.

Throughout this term the children will continue to listen to a range of stories, songs and rhymes and will be encouraged to respond to them, to retell them and to describe the characters and features of a familiar story.

#### **How you can help:**

- Encourage your child to speak in full sentences by gently prompting (for example, ‘can you tell me more about that?’)
- Introduce and use new vocabulary in everyday situations, especially words linked to what they are learning at school.
- Read together regularly and discuss the story, characters, and events to build understanding and language use.
- Encourage your child to ask their own questions during conversations, reading time, or play.

### **PRIME AREA: Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This half term, the focus of our learning will be ‘Relationships.’ The children will learn what a family is and that different people in a family have different responsibilities. They will also learn about the characteristics of healthy and safe friendships and know that sometimes friends fall out. They will learn about ways to mend a friendship and discuss the importance of using kind words. We will continue to develop our ability to use our ‘calm me’ time including to support us when we are feeling angry or upset.

We will also focus on the children developing their independence and continue exploring different emotions in great depth. The children will be supported in becoming more resilient learners—trying new activities, persevering when things feel challenging, and feeling proud of their achievements. Children will continue learning how to work and play cooperatively, take turns, share resources, and resolve minor conflicts with increasing independence.

#### **How you can help:**

- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and experiences,
- Continue to support independence with getting themselves dressed and tidying up.
- Praise your child for their effort and perseverance when completing activities.
- Discuss ways that they can be a good friend.

### **PRIME AREA: Physical Development**

This half term, children will develop their physical skills through engaging activities in dance and games. The focus will be on building confidence, coordination, control, and a positive enjoyment of movement through a range of structured and creative opportunities.

#### **How you can help:**

- Encourage your child to move to music at home by dancing freely and exploring different actions such as jumping, spinning and stretching

<p>In dance, children will explore a variety of movements including travelling, jumping, spinning and balancing. They will learn to move in response to music, exploring different rhythms, tempos and moods. Through both guided and child-led activities, children will begin to link movements together to create simple sequences. They will also be encouraged to express themselves through movement, using their bodies to represent ideas, feelings and stories, helping to develop both creativity and confidence.</p> <p>During games sessions, children will take part in a range of individual and group activities designed to develop fundamental movement skills. They will practise running, stopping, changing direction, and using equipment to throw, catch and roll. Alongside these physical skills, children will begin to understand simple rules, learn to take turns and develop cooperation when working and playing with others in small groups.</p> <p>By the end of the half term, children will be moving more confidently and safely in a variety of ways. They will show improved coordination and control, demonstrate an ability to work with others, and begin to follow simple instructions and rules within games. They will also develop their ability to express themselves through dance, building a strong foundation for future physical development in a supportive and inclusive environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play simple games together that involve running, stopping and changing direction, such as “tag” or “traffic lights”</li> <li>• Practise throwing and catching using soft balls, beanbags or rolled-up socks to build coordination</li> <li>• Visit local parks or outdoor spaces where your child can climb, balance and move in different ways</li> <li>• Encourage turn-taking and sharing through simple family games</li> <li>• Talk about how exercise makes their body feel, helping them to recognise the benefits of being active</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for your child to follow simple instructions through movement-based games</li> <li>• Praise your child’s efforts to build confidence and enjoyment in physical activity</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPECIFIC AREA: Literacy</b></p>	
<p>During the summer term, the children will continue to build on the strong foundations developed earlier in the year, becoming more confident, independent readers and writers. They will enjoy listening to a range of books and poems and completing writing activities linked to our topic on animals.</p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p>Children will keep practising their phonics skills daily, learning to recognise more sounds and blend these sounds accurately when reading. They will begin to read simple sentences more fluently and with increasing understanding. We encourage children to talk about what they have read or listened to predicting what might happen next, discussing characters, and sharing their opinions.</p> <p><b>Writing</b></p> <p>Writing becomes more purposeful this term. Children will be encouraged to write simple sentences using their phonics knowledge, including capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. They may write simple sentences, captions, labels, or messages as part of their play and structured activities. We support them in spelling words phonetically while also introducing some common exception words.</p>	<p><b>How you can help:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read regularly with your child and talk about the story. Please record this in their home/school books.</li> <li>• Encourage a range of writing opportunities, such as writing shopping lists, writing labels for models your child has made and creating stories about their own characters. Remind your child to listen carefully to the sounds in the words and then record these sounds in the correct order.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPECIFIC AREA: Mathematics</b></p>	
<p>The children will be developing their early maths skills through a range of practical and engaging activities. They will be practising counting on and counting back to help build confidence with simple calculations, as well as</p>	<p><b>How you can help:</b></p>

exploring numbers to 20 by recognising, ordering and understanding what each number represents. The children will also be learning about how shapes can be composed and decomposed, meaning they will explore how smaller shapes can be combined to make larger ones and taken apart again. In addition, they will investigate volume and capacity through hands-on experiences such as filling, pouring and comparing amounts. These activities will support the children in building a strong foundation in number sense and mathematical understanding in a fun and meaningful way.

- Practise counting forwards and backwards in everyday situations (counting steps, toys or snacks)
- Help your child recognise and order numbers to 20 using number lines or by spotting numbers when out and about.
- Use everyday objects (buttons, pasta) to practise counting, grouping and comparing amounts.
- Explore shapes at home by building with blocks or using puzzles, talking about how shapes fit together or can be taken apart.
- Talk about which container holds more or less and introduce words like 'full', 'empty', 'half full'.

### SPECIFIC AREA: Understanding the World

#### Science:

This half term, children will explore the natural world through the topics of minibeasts and growing plants. They will develop curiosity about living things and begin to understand how they grow, change and survive in their environments. Children will learn about the lifecycle of a butterfly, exploring how it changes from a caterpillar into a butterfly over time. They will observe changes closely and begin to understand that living things grow and transform. Alongside this, children will take part in planting activities, where they will learn what plants need to grow, such as water, sunlight and care. They will have opportunities to observe plants over time, noticing changes and discussing what they see.

Through outdoor learning in the environmental area, children will identify a variety of minibeasts and begin to recognise their features and habitats. They will explore where minibeasts live and why they choose certain environments. Children will also be encouraged to build simple homes for minibeasts using natural materials, helping them to understand how to care for living things and respect their habitats. By the end of the half term, children will have a greater awareness of the natural world around them. They will be able to talk about simple lifecycles, recognise some common minibeasts, and understand how to care for plants and living creatures through hands-on, exploratory experiences.

#### RE:

Children will be learning about why Easter is special for Christians. They will explore the Easter story and begin to understand the significance of the cross for Christians, as well as thinking about how Jesus' followers might have felt at different points in the story, such as feeling happy, sad or hopeful. The children will also have opportunities to talk about how they celebrate Easter at home, discussing similarities and difference between

#### How you can help (Science):

- Go on minibeast hunts in your garden or local park and talk about what you find
- Encourage your child to look closely at insects and describe what they can see
- Help your child plant seeds or flowers at home and care for them by watering regularly
- Talk about what plants need to grow, such as sunlight, water and soil
- Read books about minibeasts and lifecycles together
- Look for butterflies, caterpillars or other insects when outdoors and discuss how they change over time
- Build simple bug homes using natural materials like sticks, leaves and stones
- Encourage your child to respect living things and handle them gently before returning them to their habitat

#### How you can help (RE):

- Talk together about how your family celebrates Easter.

their experiences. They will learn about common Easter symbols, including eggs as a sign of new life, and explore traditions such as palm crosses and hot cross buns. Through stories, discussion and activities, the children will begin to develop an understanding of the meaning behind these celebrations in a way that is appropriate to them.

### **People, Culture and Communities:**

This half term, children will explore the theme of People, Culture and Communities through engaging and diverse learning experiences. They will begin by investigating the story *Handa's Surprise*, using it as a gateway to learn about life in Kenya and the wider continent of Africa, including traditions, environments, food, and ways of living. Through discussion and activities, children will develop an understanding of similarities and differences between their own lives and those of others around the world. Later in the half term, learning will shift to Japan, where children will enjoy the story *Sumo Kitty*. This will introduce them to aspects of Japanese culture, such as customs, daily life, and the sport of sumo wrestling. Across both topics, children will build respect, curiosity, and appreciation for different cultures and communities.

- Explain that eggs are a symbol of new life and talk about other signs of new life in Spring.
- Use simple questions to encourage thinking (for example, 'why do you think Easter is important to Christians?').
- Encourage respectful conversations about different beliefs and traditions.

### **How you can help:**

- Discuss where Kenya and Japan are on the map
- Talk about different foods from Africa and Japan; if possible, try some at home.
- Encourage your child to share what they have learned about different cultures and communities.
- Explore similarities and differences between your family life and those in other countries.

## **SPECIFIC AREA: Expressive Arts and Design**

This half term, children will explore their creativity through a range of art, music, movement and imaginative play activities linked to our topics. They will be encouraged to experiment with different materials, tools and techniques, developing their confidence in expressing their own ideas and experiences.

Children will create artwork inspired by minibeasts and plants, using a variety of media such as paint, collage, clay and natural materials. They will explore colour, texture and pattern, and begin to talk about what they have made and how they created it. Opportunities will be provided for children to design and build, including creating models and simple structures, such as habitats for minibeasts.

In music and movement, children will continue to explore rhythm and sound, using instruments and their voices to create simple patterns. They will respond to music through movement and dance, linking to their physical development work. Children will also engage in imaginative play, taking on roles and creating stories, often based on familiar experiences or our current themes.

### **How you can help:**

- Encourage your child to draw, paint and create using a variety of materials such as crayons, paints, junk modelling and natural objects
- Provide opportunities for your child to explore cutting, sticking and building to develop their creativity
- Sing songs and listen to music together, encouraging your child to move, clap or make up their own actions
- Use simple instruments or household items (e.g. pots and pans) to explore different sounds and rhythms
- Take part in imaginative play with your child, such as role play or storytelling
- Talk about your child's creations, asking them to explain what they have made and how they did it

By the end of the half term, children will be more confident in using a range of materials and expressing their ideas creatively. They will be able to share their creations, engage in imaginative role play, and explore music and movement with increasing independence and enjoyment.

- Encourage your child to notice colours, patterns and textures in the environment
- Praise your child's ideas and efforts to build confidence in expressing themselves creatively

**Please keep up the good work with reading daily to your child 😊**