

Reception Autumn Term Overview 2026

PRIME AREA: Communication and Language

Developing the children's listening, speaking and understanding skills will be a key focus throughout the Autumn Term. These skills will be embedded across the day through familiar routines, following instructions, conversations and discussions linked to the children's learning and experiences. The children will be encouraged to listen carefully, respond appropriately and talk about what they are doing, using descriptive language and increasingly developing their ability to speak in full sentences. The children will have regular opportunities to talk in a range of contexts, including one-to-one interactions, small groups, talk partners and whole-class discussions. They will be encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas, knowledge and opinions, listen and respond to others, and take part in meaningful conversations. Listening games and activities will support the children to develop their attention, listening and understanding skills. Throughout the term, the children will be introduced to and encouraged to use new vocabulary linked to their learning, experiences, stories and topic work. They will be supported to understand new words and use them appropriately and meaningfully in their speech. Stories, rhymes, songs and everyday experiences will provide rich opportunities for developing vocabulary, comprehension and confidence in speaking and listening.

How you can help:

- Talk to your child about their day and encourage them to tell you about what they have done, seen and enjoyed.
- Share stories, books and rhymes together and ask questions about what is happening and what might happen next.
- Introduce and talk about new words from stories, everyday experiences and your child's interests.
- Play listening games such as I Spy, Simon Says or "What can you hear?"
- Encourage your child to listen carefully and follow simple instructions, gradually introducing two or more steps.

PRIME AREA: Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Throughout the Autumn Term, we will focus on building positive relationships and creating a safe, supportive environment where the children feel confident, secure and ready to learn. The children will be encouraged to develop positive relationships with both adults and their peers, learning how to take turns, wait patiently, ask for help when needed and respect the feelings and ideas of others. We will support the children to recognise, name and talk about a range of feelings. They will explore what different emotions might look and feel like and begin to develop strategies for responding to and managing their feelings appropriately. The children will develop their understanding of what it means to be a kind and respectful friend. They will learn about using kind words and actions, listening to others, including everyone and developing positive friendships. They will also learn how to find solutions to resolve conflicts.

How you can help:

- Talk about different feelings and emotions and encourage your child to name how they are feeling.
- Talk about what might make us feel happy, sad, worried, excited or cross, and explore ways we can respond to these feelings.
- Talk about how everyone is different and special, while also identifying things you have in common.
- Share photos and stories about your family and talk about who is important to you and what makes your family special.
- Encourage your child to use kind words and actions when playing and talking with others.

PRIME AREA: Physical Development

Physical development is a vital part of our EYFS curriculum and will be supported through a wide range of opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play, PE and outdoor learning. The children will develop their gross motor skills through games and activities that promote core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness and co-ordination. These skills will provide the foundations for developing confidence, control and a healthy, active lifestyle. Alongside this, we will continue to develop the children's fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination. The children will have regular opportunities to explore puzzles, small world activities, construction, arts and crafts, malleable materials and a range of small tools, including scissors and pencils. They will be encouraged to handle tools, objects and materials safely and with increasing control and confidence. We will support the children to develop a comfortable and effective pencil grip, moving towards a tripod grip, and encourage them to develop a preference for a dominant hand. They will practise making controlled movements and forming recognisable letters, as well as developing their ability to make clockwise and some anticlockwise shapes. Through these varied experiences, the children will strengthen the muscles needed for writing and develop greater precision, control and confidence in their physical skills.

How you can help:

- Encourage your child to be active every day through running, jumping, climbing, balancing and playing games outdoors.
- Visit the park or outdoor spaces and encourage your child to develop their balance, co-ordination and confidence.
- Play ball games together, such as throwing, catching, kicking and aiming at a target.
- Encourage your child to practise getting dressed and undressed independently, including buttons, zips, shoes and coats.
- Practise cutting with child-safe scissors and encourage your child to cut along lines and around simple shapes.
- Provide opportunities for activities that strengthen hand and finger muscles, such as playdough, threading, building with construction toys and completing puzzles.
- Encourage your child to use tools such as tweezers, pegs, tongs and spoons to develop hand control and co-ordination.

SPECIFIC AREA: Literacy

Reading

One of the most important things you can do to help your child is to read with them regularly and share books to promote a love of reading. Ask your child lots of questions about the pictures, what might happen next and why. In class, we will introduce the children to our reading areas where they can freely access books throughout the day. We will also encourage reading in different locations around the classroom to model how reading can be enjoyed anywhere! The children will take part in whole class story time everyday where teachers will share high-quality texts and allow the children to have a choice in the book that is read through voting for the 'book of the day'.

We will also begin our Phonics reaching using 'Read, Write, Inc.'. In our daily Phonics lesson, we will be learning how to pronounce and write Set 1 letter sounds. We will also be learning how to blend sounds together to make words.

Writing

The children will be working on improving their pencil grip, giving meaning to marks they make when they draw, write and paint and writing their names.

We will be developing our ability to form the letters that we have learnt so far correctly, showing good pencil control. We will begin to write initial sounds in words and then work towards writing simple words linking sounds to letters.

How you can help:

- Read aloud with your child daily and share books together to promote a love of reading and reading for pleasure. Each Friday, your child will have the opportunity to change their library book. Please ensure that this is in their bookbag/bag every Friday.
- Encourage your child to draw meaningful pictures with circles and lines.
- Encourage name writing practise with meaning, for example, birthday cards.
- When you are out and about, spot different forms of writing that are all around us. When writing with a purpose in mind, such as a list or letter, explain to your child why you are writing and how it is useful.

SPECIFIC AREA: Mathematics	
Throughout the Autumn Term, children will build on what they already know about numbers, developing their skills in counting and recognising small amounts without needing to count each object (this is known as subitising). They will explore how numbers up to 5 can be made in different ways and begin to understand that numbers are made up of smaller ‘parts’ that make a ‘whole’. Children will also develop their ability to notice, recognise and visualise quantities, and begin to compare groups of objects using words such as more, less, greater, fewer and the same. Through moving around and exploring their environment, children will develop their understanding and use of everyday positional and spatial language such as in, on, under, next to, behind and in front of.	How you can help: • Spot numbers that you see when out and about, such as on doors, signs and phones. • Have a go at identifying and counting shapes around your home or at the park. • Sing counting rhymes or songs with your children.
SPECIFIC AREA: Understanding the World	
This term, will be focusing on talking about ourselves, our immediate family and the community around us. The children will be encouraged through circle times to speak about their own families whilst also having the opportunity to hear about the different families around them. The children will be identifying and celebrating similarities and differences between their life and family and the lives and families of others. Later on in the term, we will be thinking about different festivals that are celebrated at this time of year, such as Christmas and New Year and why they are important to different people, religions and cultures.	How you can help: • Share with your child, the important events in their life so far and how they have changed since they were a baby. • Talk about the festivals that you and your family will be celebrating over the coming weeks. Discuss why they are important to you and how you will celebrate them.
SPECIFIC AREA: Expressive Arts and Design	
We practice and experiment with all kinds of different materials and techniques including painting, modelling with playdough and crafting with paper; a mix of modelled techniques and free play where the children explain the creations they have made. In their independent learning time, children will have access to a variety of construction and small-world materials. We will model and encourage them to use their current knowledge and imagination to combine materials and create different models and role-play scenarios. The children will also freely access our home corner where they will be able to act out familiar scenarios and taking on different roles in the home. We will be listening to and experimenting with making music and singing.	How you can help: • Encourage your child to choose colours and materials carefully when designing and creating. • Explore seasonal sounds. Go on an autumn walk and listen carefully. Can your child hear leaves crunching, birds singing, wind blowing or rain falling? • Encourage pretend play. Provide old clothes, bags, hats or scarves for dressing up. Let your child create their own characters and stories. You could join in and follow their ideas!

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 😊