

Reception Parent Information Letter

Summer Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception. We are looking forward to a fun-filled few weeks where your child will continue to grow, explore, and develop through a wide range of carefully planned activities and experiences. Please find below an overview of what we will be work on this half-term in each area of the Early Years Curriculum alongside information on how you can help to support your child's learning at home.

Miss Lundy and Ms Hanton



Attendance

It is important that your child is in school every day by 8:55am. School ends at 3:15pm, please make sure that you are at school ready to collect your child on time.

PE

Your child has PE on Friday they must come into school wearing PE kit to take part in the sessions.

Reading

We have set up all pupils with a Monster Phonics e-book login, details have been placed in your child's reading diary. Please make sure that you read at least once a week with your child to support their progress in reading and phonics.

Trips

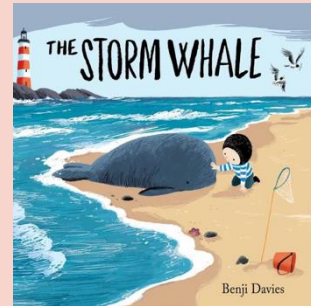
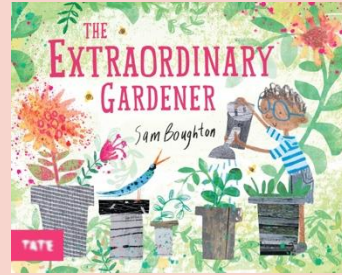
This half term we will be visiting Dates and cost will be sent via the school app nearer the time

Areas of Learning

The focus this half term will be:

Literacy

In Summer 1, the children will explore *The Extraordinary Gardener* by Sam Boughton, beginning the term by learning about plants and gardening. They will use this knowledge to write their own instructional texts, explaining clearly how to grow a plant. As the term progresses, they will delve deeper into the story, developing their understanding of characters and themes. In Summer 2, the focus will shift to *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies. Inspired by this text, the children will write their own stories centred around friendship, as well as explore poetry by creating their own imaginative poems about whales. Throughout both units, there will be a strong emphasis on developing vocabulary, sentence structure, and confidence in writing for different purposes



Communication and Language

This term, the children will build on their communication skills by engaging in more sustained conversations in a range of contexts, including group discussions, partner talk, and whole-class sharing. They will be encouraged to use an expanding vocabulary to describe events, explain their ideas in greater detail, and ask questions to deepen their understanding. Through stories, role play, and topic-based learning, children will continue to develop their ability to sequence ideas and speak in clear, well-structured sentences. With ongoing modelling and support, they will begin to use a wider range of tenses consistently and connect their thoughts using a variety of conjunctions.

Maths

This term, the children will continue to develop and consolidate their counting skills, confidently counting to larger numbers and exploring a wider range of counting strategies. They will build a secure understanding of key number facts and deepen their knowledge by representing numbers in a variety of ways. As their confidence grows, they will compare quantities and numbers, explaining their thinking using mathematical language. The children will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, alongside developing their understanding of space and measure, through practical and engaging activities.

Ideas to Support Learning at Home

- Read books every day and ask questions about the characters and setting.
- Practise recognising and writing their name.
- Support phonics learning by playing games with initial sounds (e.g., "What starts with 's'?").
- Play "I Spy" using beginning sounds.
- Let them "write" with purpose: notes, cards, shopping lists. Ask them to read what they have written.

- Encourage storytelling—ask your child to retell a story or describe a picture.
- Introduce new vocabulary during daily routines (e.g., while cooking or shopping).
- Ask open-ended questions like "What do you think will happen next?"
- Play "What's in the bag?" games with household objects to build vocabulary.
- Read daily and talk about the beginning, middle, and end of stories.

- Count aloud together during everyday tasks (e.g., counting stairs or snacks).
- Play board games that involve counting or number recognition.
- Look for numbers in the environment (e.g., door numbers, signs).
- Talk about shapes around the house—"That plate is a circle!"
- Use language like more, fewer, heavier, taller, shorter in play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<p>This term, the children will be developing their understanding of PSED through a focus on friendship and respectful relationships. They will explore what it means to be a kind and caring friend, learning how to share, take turns, and resolve conflicts positively. Through stories, discussions, and role play, the children will also learn about differences, tolerance, and diversity, helping them to appreciate and celebrate what makes each person unique. Alongside this, there will be a strong emphasis on mental health and well-being, encouraging children to talk about their feelings, recognise emotions in themselves and others, and develop simple strategies to care for themselves and each other.</p>	<p>This term, the children will develop their physical skills through a range of active and engaging experiences. They will practise key movements such as running and jumping, as well as exploring different ways of moving their bodies to create shapes. The children will also be introduced to basic tennis skills, including striking and overhead throwing, helping to build coordination and control. Alongside this, there will be a strong focus on teamwork, encouraging children to work together, take turns, and support one another during activities. These skills will be celebrated and brought together as the children take part in Sports Day, building confidence and enjoyment in physical activity.</p>	<p>This term, the children will explore the natural world by observing similarities and differences in the environment around them. They will learn about a range of animal and plant life cycles, developing their understanding of how living things grow and change over time. Through hands-on activities, the children will observe and compare different life cycles, noticing key stages and discussing what they see. They will also take part in planting and gardening experiences, helping them to develop a sense of responsibility and care for living things while deepening their curiosity about the world around them.</p>	<p>This term, the children will explore the work of Gustav Klimt, using his style as inspiration for their own creative projects. They will experiment with a range of materials to create collage artwork, developing their skills in selecting and combining textures and colours. Alongside this, the children will take part in observational painting, carefully looking at plants and flowers and recreating them using a variety of natural materials.</p>

Ideas to Support Learning at Home

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about your child’s day and ask how they felt at different moments. • Support independence by encouraging them to dress themselves and manage their belongings. • Practise taking turns and sharing during games at home. • Use storybooks to talk about emotions and problem-solving. • Help them understand routines and transitions (e.g., bedtime). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise using a knife and fork at mealtimes. • Provide activities that strengthen hand muscles—playdough, tweezers, threading, building block (e.g. lego) • Encourage your child to write, draw, or colour daily. • Take them to the park to run, climb, jump, and balance. • Practise zipping up coats and putting on shoes independently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go on nature walks and talk about seasonal changes (e.g., leaves falling). • Share family traditions, photos, and stories. • Explore “how” and “why” questions: “Why do we wear coats in autumn?” • Visit local parks, farms, or museums to talk about the world around us. • Encourage curiosity—let them help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of materials at home for drawing, painting, and building. • Encourage singing songs from school or inventing their own. • Have pretend play sessions with dolls, toy animals, or role-play clothes. • Create simple instruments from household items and explore sounds. • Display their creative work and talk
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