Reception Parent Information Letter

Autumn 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 Devaney 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 term we will be going pumpkin picking and to the planetarium. Dates and cost will be sent via the school app nearer the time.

Areas of Learning

The focus this half term will be:

Literacy		Communication and Language	Maths
This half term, Reception will be exploring the book 'Star in the Jar' by Sam Hay. The theme of this story is Friendship and Space. We will be working on accurately retelling parts of the story and orally rehearsing how to structure simple sentences accurately. In phonics Reception will be learning all the single letters sounds plus the consonant digraphs (sh, ch, th, th, ng) and vowel digraphs (long oo, ar).		In Reception, we will be practicing and learning how to listen attentively and how to respond to questions and instructions. This term we will be focusing on talking about our interests and feelings.	In Maths, Reception will be learning composition of numbers within 5 by learning how to write, build and recognize numbers within 5 through subitising.

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
In Reception, our topic for this term in PSED is settling in, we will be learning about our emotions and how we feel. The children will be reading the text 'The Colour Monster' and exploring how we can talk about our emotions and things we can do to help deal with our feelings. We will also be exploring the topic of what makes us all unique and all of our different strengths and talents.	In the classroom, the children will be doing lots of activities to work on their fine and gross motor skills including how to hold a pencil, dough disco, threading, using scissors and building. In PE the children will be focusing on balance, coordination, hand-eye coordination and movement from low, middle and high.	In Understanding the World, we will be learning all about Autumn and the changes that happen within Autumn, we will be discussing and exploring the changes that we can see in nature during Autumn. We will also be exploring the topic of 'Me and My Family.' The children will explore their own life-story and their family history.	In expressive arts and design, the children will be learning about the Artist Evita Tezeno and will be making self-portraits. We will also be exploring using different materials to create Art such as using Paints, Markers, colouring pencils, chalks and collaging.

Ideas to Support Learning at Home

• 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, morning routines)	• 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.	• 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 with cooking or planting seeds	• 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 to them about what they made.