



Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term (First Half) 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. The children look refreshed, which is great, as we have a busy term of learning and activities ahead of us.

Thank you to all of those parents who have contributed to their child's learning journal by adding an observation onto Tapestry. We really enjoy seeing and hearing what the children have been up to with you at home and the children enjoy sharing their learning and achievements with us.

Please ensure that you continue to read with your child at home every day and record this in their reading diary by either making comments about how your child has found reading the book or initialing/signing that they have read on a particular day. You may want to comment on whether your child enjoyed the book, if they found it easy or difficult or use it as an opportunity to ask your child's class teacher a question. Please also continue to support your child to develop their comprehension and inference skills by asking them questions about the book that they have read.

Learning Themes

Our aim is to make sure that your child's learning experiences are exciting and enjoyable by delivering a creative and stimulating curriculum, which is based on the skills highlighted in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. All learning is linked to the children's interests and will be linked to an overall theme.

This half-term, the children will be looking at traditional tales and mythical creatures. The children will also be learning about Chinese New Year. During the learning theme of traditional tales, the children will be able to role-play in the Three Bear's cottage, re-tell a variety of traditional tales, and carry out a science experiment using gummy bears. During the learning theme of mythical creatures, the children will be able to create and write about their own mythical creature as well as use a range of materials to portray it. Whilst learning about Chinese New Year, the children will be learning about the story of the race of the animals, investigating floating and sinking linked to dragon boat racing, and writing their own wishes to go inside a fortune cookie.

Supporting Your Child At Home

Reading

Frequently sharing books with your child and talking about the main characters and sequence of events will support your child to develop their comprehension skills. Supporting your child to read from left to right, encouraging them to point to each word as they read, using the picture if they get stuck on a word, using the words they know already to help them, segmenting and blending the phonemes in cvc words and reading repeated words throughout the book, will help your child to improve with their reading skills.

Mathematics

Using numbers in everyday contexts, such as recognising house numbers, counting the number of stairs climbed when going to bed at night and counting the number of shoes found on the shoe rack at home, will enable your child to practise and apply their mathematical skills in real life contexts. Incorporating mathematics and mathematical vocabulary into everyday routines and activities, e.g. tidy up time and mealtimes in particular, provide opportunities for conversations about counting, comparing, time and sharing. Playing board games, particularly with linear, numbered, equal-sized spaces can also be useful for the development of early number skills.

Reminders

PE

The children will be having PE on **Wednesday mornings** throughout this half-term. Please ensure that you provide a fully named PE kit, one suitable for outdoor PE lessons, as where possible, PE will be taught outside. Your child's PE kit will need to be brought into school every Monday and will be returned home on Fridays for it to be washed. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that their earrings are removed on PE days for health and safety reasons. Long hair should always be tied up whilst the children are at school and especially during PE lessons.

Forest School

Reception will continue to have Forest School this half term. Alhberg Class will have their session on **Monday afternoon. Inkpen class** will have their session on **Wednesday afternoon**. Please provide your child with a complete change of clothes and wellies. Waterproof clothing is preferable, especially with the weather as it is during the coming months.

Snack Time

All of the children in Reception are given either fresh fruit or vegetables for a healthy snack every day and this initiative is funded by the government. Milk is also provided free of charge up until your child's fifth birthday.

Water Bottles

Children need to bring a **named** water bottle to school every day and this can be used throughout the day. Please encourage your child to take their water bottle into the classroom every day and put it into one of the trays. Please ensure that the bottles only contain water and not juice or squash. We would also be grateful if water bottles could be carried to and from school instead of being put inside the children's book bags please, as we are finding that some of the home reading

books are being ruined by water leaking out of the water bottles.

Book Bags

Please ensure that your child brings their book bag into school with them every day. It is very useful to have the book bag in school so that letters, reading books, knowledge organiser books, key word books and anything that the children make can be sent home easily.

We welcome you to discuss your child, their progress or any concerns you may have. We might not be able to talk to you straight away but we will endeavour to speak to you as soon as possible. You can leave a message with the school office via telephone or send an e-mail to the school office who will forward it onto me.

Dates For Your Diaries





Half Term:

Monday 16th February until Friday 20th February

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

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 <p>Communication and Language</p> <p>Children will continue to sit quietly during whole class and smaller group activities. Children will be given the chance to listen and respond to ideas expressed by others. In their role-play, children will use talk to imagine and recreate different roles. They will be given the chance to re-tell stories that they have learnt and act these out using puppets in the role-play area.</p>	 <p>Physical Development</p> <p>Children will gain confidence in all areas of physical development, including using scissors and other one-handed tools with safety. They will be concentrating on developing good pencil grip and control. Children will develop their spatial awareness during PE lessons. They will also explore moving in a variety of different ways using a combination of small, big, high and low movements.</p>	 <p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>Children will continue to think about our classroom rules and build upon the friendships made within the classes. They will be focusing on their own actions and the feelings of other children. In circle time, we will be thinking about 'Dreams and Goals', where the children will be identifying goals and challenges, learning how to overcome obstacles and the importance of perseverance.</p>
<p>Literacy</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>Children will take part in weekly reading sessions with their class teacher. As a whole class, we will be reading lots of stories together, some that link with our topic and others for our enjoyment.</p> <p>Writing</p> <p>We will continue to focus on how we form sentences when writing using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop at the end. Children will be encouraged to form their letters correctly using a pre-cursive script. They will explore both story writing and non-fiction writing.</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>In our daily phonics lessons, we will continue to learn new phonemes and practise segmenting and blending to read and spell words.</p>	 <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Number</p> <p>Children will be introduced to the concept of zero. They will also be comparing numbers up to 5 and exploring the composition of numbers up to 5, e.g. $3 + 2 = 5$ and $6 - 1 = 5$.</p> <p>Numerical Patterns</p> <p>Children will learn the names of 3D shapes and use them to build models. They will describe the properties of each shape and select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop their spatial reasoning skills. Children will also be using their knowledge of number to explore length, height and time.</p>	<p>Understanding the World</p> <p>Children will talk about their families, special times and celebrations. They will explore the world around them including looking at the local environment. Children will comment on images of familiar situations in the past and will also compare and contrast figures from the past.</p> <p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Using different media and materials, children will explore colour, shape and size. They will engage in different role-play scenarios, such as taking on the role of Goldilocks in the three bear's cottage. Children will also take part in whole class singing and music making sessions where they will be able to make up their own songs and rhythms.</p>

