Reception Learning Journey



Communication and Language

In Reception we will continue to focus on developing the children's speaking & listening skills. During assembly time and carpet time the children will be provided with verbal and visual reminders to respectfully listen to others. They will be encouraged to respond to questions based on a text that has been read and they will be provided with lots of opportunities to discuss and ask questions about the events that they have read about. There will be opportunities to use new vocabulary in a range of different contexts. The children will also continue to develop their understanding and they will be supported in following clear instructions with 2 parts e.g. get your coat and then sit on the carpet'.

Physical Development

This half term the children will begin to develop overall body; strength, co-ordination, balance and agility. During P.E lessons the children will be exploring movement and balance through dance with a theme linked to Fairytales. They will express ideas through movement, move in different ways and respond in time to music.

The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills focussing on pencil grip, correct sitting posture for writing and accurate letter formation.

Mathematics

This half term we will continue developing our number and shape skills through the use of the White Rose maths scheme. Children will focus on numbers 1-5, recognising, counting and representing these numbers, exploring how they can be made in different ways and finding one more and one less. They will explore circles and triangles, identifying, naming and comparing them. They will also recognise shapes with 4 sides and explore how they can be combined to make new shapes. Children will be encouraged to use positional language to describe where things are and identify shapes in the world around us. There will be a focus on using mathematical language and explaining our mathematical thinking.



Expressive Art & Design

This half term the children will be rehearsing for their Christmas performance. They will be taking part in daily singing sessions, joining in with the songs and learning the actions. This term the children will discover the Nativity story. Sing songs to explain the story and perform as a class in their Christmas Nativity performance. This will include demonstration of pulse. They will explore the work of artists including Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky through texts, videos, discussions and teacher demonstrations. The children will develop their use of materials, such as clay, glitter and glue, and they will begin to understand how to use shapes to represent objects. They will develop their painting skills through exploring a range of colours and how colours can be changed e.g. colour mixing.





Personal Social & Emotional Development

During this half term the children will continue to develop their self-regulation skills. They will be supported to take turns and share resources and develop patience and understanding that there is more than just them in the class. The children will be encouraged to become more independent and use their preferences to choose what they would like to do at school. They will be expected to put their own coats on and zip it up. The children will continue to build on the relationships they developed last term. They will be supported to talk to children and adults in the setting and begin to ask for help if they need it. In PSHE lessons, we will focus on 'Celebrating difference'. This topic teaches the children that everyone is unique and that our differences should be valued and celebrated. As part of anti-bullying week, children will wear odd socks to celebrate our uniqueness, and learn about the importance of being kind and respectful to others.



Literacy

In Reception this half term the children will be developing their reading comprehension skills through sequencing events from a familiar story using prompts for support. They will be focussing on the text 'Star in the Jar' by Sam Hay and using this as a stimulus to orally rehearse sentences and ask questions about what has been read to them. They will also be exposed to a wide range of authors and fiction and non-fiction texts during story times. The children will continue to learn new letter sounds in their daily phonics session. They will begin to blend sounds together to read some CVC words and they will learn some common exception words (also known as red words). The children will develop their writing skills recording letters for initial sounds and end sounds and they will begin recording simple CVC words.

The children will continue to develop their handwriting skills understanding that we write from left to right and top to bottom. They will be encouraged to use 'pinch and flick' as a method to hold their pencil in a supportive grip for effective writing.



Understanding the World

In Reception the children will be taking part in discussions around past and present. They will explore events such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Diwali. The children will be finding out about key historical events and why and how we celebrate them today. They will be encouraged to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. This will provide opportunities to talk about members of our families and communities. The children will spend time exploring the outside environment to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. As part of this, children will also learn about road safety and draw information from simple maps. Finally, we will spend time celebrating Christmas in our own classes, learning about the story, Christmas traditions and how it is celebrated in other countries.



Michaelmas Term 2026