



Reception Newsletter - Autumn 1

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Reception! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and developing a strong positive partnership with your family. By working together and sharing in your child's experiences, we can help make their Reception year a happy, successful and memorable one. Your child really is at the heart of everything we do. ❤️

We understand that starting Reception is a significant milestone, and this term will be filled with many exciting first experiences, from making new friends and settling into classroom routines to beginning their phonics and early reading journey.

During these first few weeks, our focus will be helping the children settle into school life, establish routines, make new friends, and develop a sense of belonging. We want every child to feel safe, valued, and secure so that they can thrive and enjoy all the wonderful learning opportunities that Reception has to offer.

Let the reception journey begin!

Thank you very much for your support.

The Reception Team ✨

Areas of Development

The Early Years Curriculum

In Reception, learning is organised into seven areas of development, which help children build the skills they need for future learning and life. These areas are:



Communication and Language



Physical Development



Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Literacy



Mathematics



Understanding the World



Expressive Arts and Design.

Children learn through a balance of adult-led activities and purposeful play, allowing them to explore, investigate and develop at their own pace. Throughout the year, we will provide exciting opportunities that support progress across all areas while nurturing each child's individual interests and strengths.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language is a vital area of learning in Reception and underpins all other areas of development. Before children can read, write, solve problems, or explain their ideas, they need opportunities to develop their speaking, listening, and understanding skills. Through stories, conversations, role play, and shared experiences, we encourage children to become confident communicators who can express their thoughts, ask questions, and engage with others.

Communication and Language is developed throughout the year through high-quality interactions, daily group discussions, circle time, stories and singing.

✦ We will be supporting the children in:

- Beginning to use and understand simple sentences.
- Using social phrases such as "Good morning," "My name is..."
- Joining in with daily story time.
- Learning and using new and exciting vocabulary.
- Sharing songs and rhymes.

✦ How You Can Help at Home

- Introduce and model **new words** in everyday conversation.
- Encourage your child to **ask questions** about the world around them.
- Sing **songs and rhymes** together.
- Spend time having **conversations about their interests**, e.g. toys, games, places they enjoy.
- Give them time to **talk and respond**, rather than rushing answers.

Physical Development

Physical Development helps children build the strength, coordination and control they need for everyday life and learning. In Reception, children develop their gross motor skills through activities such as running, climbing, balancing and outdoor play, while fine motor skills are strengthened through activities like drawing, painting, cutting, and manipulating small objects. These skills are essential for supporting independence and preparing children for writing.

✦ We will be encouraging and supporting the children to:

- Develop their gross motor skills through climbing, balancing, jumping, and outdoor play.
- Build strength in their hands and fingers through activities such as construction, threading, playdough and creative activities.
- Explore a range of mark-making tools, including pencils, pens, crayons and paintbrushes.
- Begin to develop control when using tools and equipment safely.
- Move confidently around the indoor and outdoor environments.
- Develop coordination through activities such as throwing, catching, rolling and riding wheeled toys.
- Become increasingly independent when managing personal care and everyday routines.
- Experiment with different ways of holding pencils and pens to support early writing.
- Begin to show a preference for a dominant hand.
- Develop the skills needed for future handwriting, drawing and self-care tasks.

✦ How You Can Help at Home

- Practise using tools like **scissors, crayons, and paintbrushes**.
- Support early writing through **drawing, tracing, and mark-making**.
- Play games that involve **throwing, catching, and balancing**.

Developing these skills helps children to become more confident in their writing, as well as supporting their overall coordination and physical wellbeing. ✦

Personal, Social and Emotional Development 🏠

This half term, children will be learning to build friendships, develop confidence and independence, begin to understand their feelings, and become familiar with school routines. We will help each child feel happy, safe and valued as they settle into school life and become part of our classroom community.

✦ We will be encouraging and supporting children to:

- Learn school rules and routines using our visual timetable.
- Explore all areas of the reception environment.
- Become familiar with lunchtime routines.
- Build friendships through play.
- Begin to recognise and talk about their feelings.
- Celebrate similarities and differences within our class community.

✦ How You Can Help at Home

- Give children the **tools** they need to become more independent.
- Play **simple games together**, encouraging turn-taking and following rules.
- Discuss how we **behave** in various places, e.g. shops, parks, family events.
- Model and encourage **kindness, patience, and understanding of others' feelings**

These skills help children to build confidence, form positive relationships, and feel secure. in different environments. 🌈

Literacy 📖

Literacy is an exciting part of learning in Reception and begins with developing a love of stories, books, and language. Children will begin their reading journey through daily phonics lessons, where they learn new sounds and how these sounds can be used to read and write words. Alongside this, we will share a wide range of stories, rhymes, and poems to develop vocabulary, imagination, and a love of reading. Children will also have many opportunities to mark-make, draw and write through play and purposeful activities.

✦ Reading and Phonics



This term, children will begin their phonics journey through the **Little Wandle** programme. They will learn new sounds (phonemes) and develop their ability to recognise and hear these sounds in words. Children will take part in a range of fun activities to support **oral blending** (putting sounds together to make a word) before beginning to blend familiar sounds to read simple words independently.

✦ Our Reading

This term, we are enjoying a range of exciting books and texts to support our learning across literacy and communication skills. Here is a look at what we are exploring together:

Children will begin their reading journey in separate ways depending on their stage of development.

- Some children will start reading decodable books linked to their phonics knowledge.
- Other children will begin by exploring wordless books and discussing pictures.
- Reading Records will be sent home and introduced to families.
- We will share strategies for supporting reading during Stay and Play sessions.

A few books we will be enjoying this term

Our stories this half term focus on friendships, feelings, families, and celebrating differences.



The Invisible String

We will be...

- Talking about the special people in our lives and the relationships that are important to us.
- Exploring feelings linked to love, belonging, and connection.
- Understanding that we can feel close to people even when they are not with us.
- Developing confidence to share our thoughts, feelings, and experiences with others.
- Learning that everyone is part of a caring and supportive community.

This text links beautifully to your values focus of **Friendship, Love and Respect** and can help support children as they settle into Reception and build new relationships. ❤️

Simon Sock

We will be...

- Exploring how to make and keep friends.
- Learning how to include others in our play.
- Developing our speaking and listening skills through storytelling.
- Using our imagination through creative activities.



The Colour Monster

We will be...

- Identifying and naming different emotions.
- Talking about how we feel and why.
- Learning ways to express and manage our feelings.
- Exploring colour through art and creative activities.



Perfectly Norman

We will be...

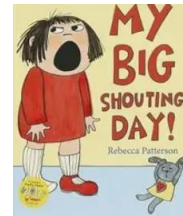
- Celebrating what makes us unique.
- Recognising similarities and differences between ourselves and others.
- Building confidence to be ourselves.
- Using creativity to design and create our own wings.



My Shouting Day

We will be...

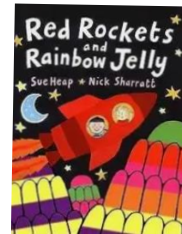
- Exploring different emotions and behaviours.
- Understanding that everyone has difficult days sometimes.
- Learning strategies to help us regulate our feelings.
- Talking about ways we can ask for help and support.



Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly

We will be...

- Exploring our likes and dislikes.
- Understanding that everyone has different preferences.
- Learning to listen to and respect the opinions of others.
- Developing vocabulary through discussion and conversation.



What If Everybody Did That?

We will be...

- Thinking about the choices we make every day.
- Understanding how our actions affect others.
- Exploring our classroom and school rules.
- Learning how to contribute positively to our school community.



The story of Rama and Sita

We will be...

- Learning about a different culture and traditions.
- Exploring storytelling through role play and puppets.

- Creating patterns and artwork inspired by the story.
- Developing our understanding of the world around us.

✦ How You Can Help at Home

- Share stories together and talk about **what happens and who is in the story**.
- Ask your child about their **favourite part** of a book.
- Encourage your child to **retell stories in their own words**.

Reading at home is one of the most valuable ways you can support your child's learning. Spending just a few minutes each day sharing books helps children to develop their vocabulary, language skills, understanding, and imagination. Regular reading also builds confidence, strengthens early phonics knowledge, and supports the development of successful readers and writers.

Children who read regularly at home often make stronger progress in school, as they are exposed to a wider range of words, stories, and ideas. Most importantly, reading together creates special opportunities to talk, listen and enjoy books, helping to foster a lifelong love of reading.

Please aim to read with your child little and often, celebrating every success along the way. If you need support with any aspect of reading at home, including sharing books, supporting phonics, please do get in touch. We are always happy to help and work together to support your child's reading journey. 📖 ✨

Writing

✦ Our Writing

Writing in Reception begins long before children can write words independently. Through a range of meaningful and engaging activities, children will develop the skills needed to become confident writers. They will be encouraged to share their ideas, give meaning to their marks, and begin to understand that writing can be used for different purposes. As their phonics knowledge grows, children will start to apply the sounds they have learned to their early writing.

✏ **This half term, we will be encouraging and supporting the children to:**

- Develop hand strength and pencil control through a range of fine motor activities.
- Make marks with increasing confidence and purpose.
- Give meaning to their drawings, marks and symbols.
- Talk about their ideas before recording them.
- Begin to write some recognisable letters.
- Learn correct letter formation linked to our phonics learning.
- Use their growing phonics knowledge to attempt writing sounds and simple words.
- Enjoy writing opportunities through play, both indoors and outdoors.

- Build confidence in seeing themselves as writers.
- Begin 'Rainbow Writing'
- Explore writing opportunities indoors and outdoors.
- Develop hand strength and pencil control through using a range of fine motor activities.

✦ How you can help at home

- Encourage your child to **mark make**.
- Ask them what they have written or drawn, let them **give meaning to their marks**.
- Practise **writing the letters** they have learnt in phonics.
- Develop their **hand strength** by using playdough, using Lego to build or even digging in the garden!

Maths

✦ Our Maths Learning This Term



We aim to build confidence and enjoyment in maths through play, exploration, and real-life experiences! Through our Mastering Number programme, children will have the opportunity to:

- Join in with counting songs, rhymes, and number games.
- Recognise small groups of objects without counting them (known as *subitising*).
- Show numbers in separate ways, such as using their fingers, objects, and pictures.
- Match groups of objects to the correct numeral.
- Count carefully to find out "how many" objects there are altogether.
- Understand that the last number counted tells us the total amount.
- Explore how numbers can be made up of smaller parts (for example, 3 can be made from 1 and 2).
- Listen carefully and identify small numbers of sounds, such as claps or drumbeats.
- Notice when a quantity stays the same, even if the objects are arranged differently.
- Compare groups of objects and talk about which has **more**, **fewer** or the **same** amount.
- Use mathematical language confidently during play and practical activities.

✦ Real-Life Maths Opportunities

We encourage children to see maths as part of everyday life. In school, and at home, we will explore maths through:

- **Counting everyday objects** (toys, snacks, steps)
- Talking about **which group has more or fewer items**

- Spotting **numbers in the environment** (doors, buses, shops)
- **Sharing objects equally** (e.g. snacks between friends or family)
- Exploring **patterns** in routines, clapping, or movement
- Using mathematical language such as **more, less, equal, altogether**

✦ How You Can Help at Home

- Practise **counting in everyday situations** (walking, tidying up, shopping)
- Ask questions like "Who has more?" or "Can we share these fairly?"
- Play simple **number games** (matching, sorting, spotting patterns)
- Encourage your child to **recognise numbers without counting** small groups

Understanding the World 🌍

Understanding the World helps children make sense of the people, places, and experiences around them. In Reception, children learn through first-hand experiences, exploration, and discussion. We encourage children to be curious, ask questions, and investigate the world around them, helping them to develop an understanding of their community, nature, cultures, and traditions.

✦ This half term, we will be encouraging and supporting the children to:

- Learn about themselves, their families and what makes them unique.
- Build positive relationships within our classroom and school community.
- Explore the Reception environment and wider school grounds.
- Observe and talk about seasonal changes as we move into autumn.
- Take part in a nature walk to look for signs of autumn.
- Learn how to care for our environment through activities such as litter picking.
- Explore diverse cultures and traditions through stories, including *Rama and Sita*.
- Talk about similarities and differences between people, places, and experiences.
- Develop curiosity by asking questions and sharing their observations.

Expressive Arts and Design 🎨

Expressive Arts and Design encourages children to use their imagination, creativity and curiosity to explore the world around them. In Reception, children are given opportunities to experiment with a wide range of materials, tools, music, movement and role play activities. Through creating, performing and

exploring, children learn to express their ideas, thoughts and feelings while developing confidence in their own unique talents and abilities.

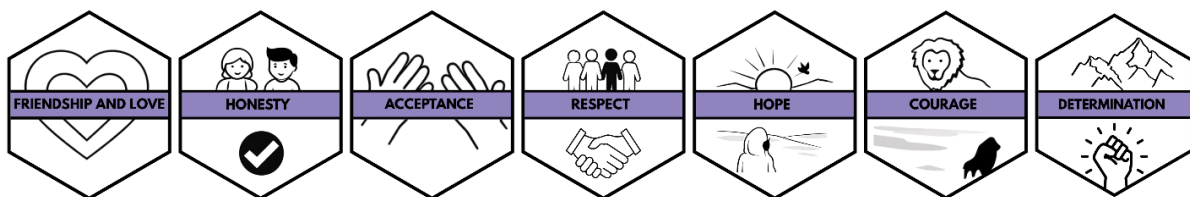
✦ **This half term, we will be encouraging and supporting the children to:**

- Explore a variety of creative materials and techniques.
- Express their ideas through drawing, painting, modelling and craft activities.
- Use role play and storytelling to develop their imagination.
- Sing songs, learn rhymes and explore music and movement.
- Create artwork inspired by our class stories and seasonal changes.
- Experiment with colour, pattern, texture and shape.
- Develop confidence in sharing and talking about their creations.
- Work collaboratively with others on creative projects.

Reminders

- ✦ Your child will need a **named water bottle** each day- just water please.
- ✦ Please ensure your child's **wellies are named**, as they can stay in school.
- ✦ A **change of clothing** may be needed (especially if your child enjoys wet, muddy puddles!)

Seathorne Values



Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities.



Year group information

Hedgehogs



Class Teacher: Mrs J Farrington (Miss Lunn's Maternity leave cover)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Beardsall



Honeybees

Class Teacher: Mrs James

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Pike and Miss Taylor

PPA Cover (Tuesday afternoons):

HLTA Teacher: Mrs Robinson

PE (Friday afternoons)

Please remember to name your child's school uniform and PE KIT and that in Reception school uniform is black/grey trousers/skirt, white shirt.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

Dates for the diary!

Autumn 1

Wednesday 2nd September- We welcome the children back

Friday 23rd October – Break up for the half term break.

I will be sharing more dates with you on Tapestry soon.