

Reception Newsletter – Autumn 2



It has been a wonderful start to the year in Reception. The children have settled into school life brilliantly, spending time getting to know their new environment, building friendships and becoming familiar with our daily routines. We are so proud of how confidently they have embraced new experiences and challenges.

One of the highlights of the last term has been seeing our Reception and Nursery children come together during parts of their day. This provides valuable opportunities for the children to learn from one another, develop their social skills, build confidence and form friendships across the Early Years.

As we start term 2, we are looking forward to many more exciting learning experiences. The children will continue to develop their phonics, communication and language skills, early mathematics and other areas of development through a mixture of adult-led activities and child-initiated play. We will be encouraging curiosity, creativity and independence, while providing opportunities for the children to explore, investigate, problem-solve and develop confidence in their learning. We can't wait to see the progress they make and all the wonderful achievements they will accomplish this term.

Thank you very much for your support.

The Reception Team ✨

Our Seathorne Values



This term, our values are focused on **Honesty** and **Respect**.

At our school, these values are the golden thread woven through all our learning and experiences. They underpin everything we do in Reception, helping children to develop not only academically, but also as kind, confident and responsible members of our school community.

We support children to develop honesty by encouraging them to tell the truth, talk about their feelings and take responsibility for their actions. We help them understand that mistakes are a natural part of learning and that being honest helps us learn and grow.

We promote respect through our daily routines, interactions and play. Children are encouraged to listen to others, use kind words, share resources, care for their environment and celebrate each other's successes. Through stories, discussions and real-life experiences, we help children understand the importance of treating themselves, others and the world around them with respect.

We look forward to recognising and celebrating the many ways our children demonstrate these important values throughout the term. 🌟

Communication and Language 💬

This term we will be supporting the children's communication and language development by:

- Using simple, complete sentences of 4-6 words.
- Sharing familiar songs, rhymes and stories with increasing confidence.
- Commenting on stories and expressing preferences, e.g. "I like that story."
- Beginning to share ideas with others during play and learning.
- Listening carefully to adults and peers during group activities.

✨ **How you can help at home:**

- Reading stories together every day and talking about what has happened in the story.
- Singing familiar nursery rhymes and songs together.
- Modelling good listening by taking turns in conversations and giving your child time to respond.
- Encouraging your child to share their opinions, for example, "I liked that story because..."

Physical Development 🏃

This term we will be supporting the children's physical development by:

- Moving confidently in different ways such as running, jumping and climbing.

- Developing coordination when using large equipment and negotiating obstacles.
- Showing increasing control when using mark-making tools.
- Beginning to use a comfortable pencil grip.
- Using one-handed tools safely, such as scissors, paintbrushes and glue spreaders.

✨ **How you can help at home:**

- Encouraging active play outdoors, such as running, jumping, hopping and climbing.
- Providing opportunities to draw, colour and paint to strengthen hand muscles and pencil control.
- Helping your child practise using scissors safely when cutting paper.
- Encouraging independence when putting on coats, shoes and other items of clothing.
- Supporting healthy routines such as handwashing, brushing teeth and dressing themselves.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development 🏠

This term we will be supporting the children's personal, social and emotional development by:

- Expressing their feelings and beginning to explain why they feel that way.
- Following classroom rules and routines with increasing independence.
- Developing friendships and begin to play cooperatively with others.
- Understanding how to keep themselves and others safe.
- Showing confidence in choosing activities and initiating play.
- Beginning to demonstrate resilience when faced with challenges.

✨ **How you can help at home:**

- Talking about different feelings and encouraging your child to explain why they feel happy, sad, excited or worried.
- Encouraging your child to take turns and share during games and play activities.
- Encouraging independence with dressing, toileting, handwashing and tidying away belongings.
- Talking about the importance of being kind, respectful and helpful to others.
- Modelling positive ways to manage frustrations, such as taking a deep breath, asking for help or trying again.

Literacy 📄

✨ **Reading and Phonics**

Building on their learning from last term, the children will continue to consolidate the sounds they have already been taught and begin learning new sounds. They will further develop their oral blending skills

and build their confidence in blending sounds together to read words. The children will also begin to recognise and read some new tricky words.

✨ Our Reading

Children will begin to use familiar story language and repeated phrases when exploring books independently. They will develop an awareness of rhythm and rhyme through stories, songs and nursery rhymes. Children will learn that books can have different purposes, including finding information from non-fiction texts. They will also begin to discuss characters from familiar stories, sharing their thoughts and ideas about what they have read.

A few books we will be enjoying this term

Our stories this half term focus on past events, respect, remembrance, honesty, celebration, Christians, friendships, feelings, families, and celebrating differences.

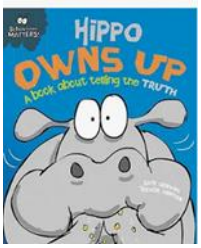
📖 The Poppy Story



We will be ...

- Learning about the importance of Remembrance Day.
- Developing our understanding of the past through stories and discussions.
- Taking part in remembrance activities as part of our school community.
- Learning about how we show respect.

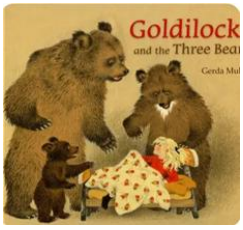
📖 Hippo owns up



We will be...

- Learning about the idea of honesty.
- Learning about how our behaviour can have an impact on others.
- We will learn about the importance of telling the truth and taking responsibility for our actions.
- We will explore how our choices can affect other people and discuss ways to make things right when mistakes happen.

📖 Goldilocks and the Three Bears



We will be...

- Learning about the idea of honesty.
- Learning about the idea of doing the right thing.
- Retelling the story and talking about the beginning, middle and end.
- Explore the importance of making safe and respectful choices, thinking about how Goldilocks used things that did not belong to her.
- Comparing and describing different sizes using language such as big, small, bigger and smaller.

📖 The Paper Dolls



We will be…

- Learning about the idea of respect
- We will explore the importance of family, love and special memories.
- We will use our imagination to create our own paper dolls and develop storytelling skills through play.
- We will talk about friendships and what makes people and relationships special to us.

📖 The Nativity Story / The Christmas Story

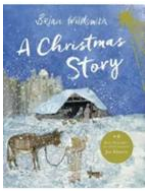


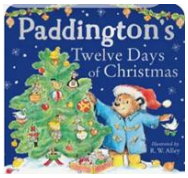


We will be…

- Learning about the idea of Christian celebration of Christmas.
- Learning about the meaning of the Nativity Story.

📖 A Christmas Story / Paddington's Twelve Days of Christmas





We will be…

- Learning about the idea of Christian celebration of Christmas.
- Learning about the idea of the twelve days of Christmas.

✨ 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.
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. 📚✨

<u>Writing</u>

✨ Our Writing

They will develop confidence in independently writing some recognisable letters and will begin to spell simple CVC words and tricky words taught through phonics sessions. Children will also start to share their own ideas and experiences through 'Private Stories', with adults supporting as scribes where needed.

Through the Little Wandle Handwriting programme, children will develop correct letter formation through daily handwriting practice linked to the sounds they are learning in phonics. They will be taught how to form letters using the correct starting and finishing points, developing good pencil control and letter orientation. As their confidence grows, children will practise writing letters, words and simple captions, helping them to build the skills needed for fluent and legible handwriting. Regular opportunities to develop fine motor strength and pencil grip will further support their writing development.

✨ **How you can help at home:**

- Encouraging your child to practise forming the letters they have learned in phonics using the correct formation.
- Supporting your child to hold their pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Providing opportunities for mark-making, drawing and writing during play.
- Encouraging your child to write their name independently.
- Helping your child to hear and say the sounds in simple words.
- Practising reading and spelling the tricky words sent home.
- Encouraging your child to use their sounds to write simple words, labels or captions.
- Talking about your child's drawings and encouraging them to add writing to explain their ideas.
- Sharing stories together and discussing characters, settings and events to inspire writing.
- Praising all attempts at writing to help build your child's confidence and enjoyment.

Maths 🔢

✨ Our Maths Learning This Term



This term, the children will continue to develop their counting skills through a range of practical and engaging activities. They will learn that counting helps us find out how many objects there are altogether and will practise counting carefully by touching or moving each object as they count. The children will also build their understanding that the last number counted tells us the total number of objects in a group. Through games and hands-on experiences, they will continue to strengthen their confidence in counting accurately and recognising quantities.

✨ How you can help at home:

- Count everyday objects together, such as toys, pieces of fruit or steps as you walk.
- Encourage your child to touch or move each object as they count to help develop accurate counting.
- Ask questions such as, "How many are there altogether?" after counting a group of objects.
- Practise recognising numbers in the environment, for example on doors, buses and number plates.
- Sing counting songs and rhymes together, such as Five Little Ducks or Five Currant Buns.
- Encourage your child to count out a given number of objects, for example, "Can you get me 5 pencils?"

- Compare groups of objects and talk about which has more, fewer or the same number.
- Celebrate your child's counting efforts and encourage them to explain how they worked out their answer.

✨ 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!)

✨ Please ensure all your children's **clothes are named**.

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 (Thursday 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!

<u>Autumn Term 2</u>

Monday 9th November - Return to school for term 2
Friday 13th November - Children in Need
Thursday 19th November - Non uniform day
Thursday 26th November from 3:30pm – Christmas fayre.
Bed time story- Date TBC
Week beginning 14/12/26- Nativity
Thursday 10th December- Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas!

As the festive season approaches and excitement begins to fill our classrooms, we are delighted to be preparing for one of the highlights of the Reception year. This year, we would love to invite you to join us for our very own reception nativity, where the children will have the opportunity to share their singing, and storytelling with family and friends. 🎄 ✨

