

Curriculum Newsletter - 1st half of Summer term 2026

Dear Reception Parents

April 2026

1st HALF SUMMER TERM ROUTINES

We hope that you enjoyed your half term break and that the children are refreshed! The topic this half term is '**Minibeasts**' and all seven areas of the Foundation Years curriculum will be developed through this. During this theme, we will develop the children's engagement in learning through finding out about minibeasts and their life cycles. The children will continue to develop their understanding of similarities and differences in the natural world. They will begin to understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them. We will also have some wonderful 'visitors' moving into our classroom very soon. I know the children will tell you all about them!

Reading books are changed on Monday and Friday. **P.E. kits** are needed on **Thursdays**. In the mornings I will be introducing a Language and Literacy session and a Numeracy session, to prepare the children for Year One. This will involve a morning task where children will be encouraged to sit at the table for register and complete a given literacy or numeracy task. Children will continue to bring home their Home Reading books twice a week.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW YOU CAN HELP:-

Talking

- Sing songs & rhymes from memory
- Take turns in conversation at home
- Talk about keeping healthy
- Use geographical vocabulary to describe features
- Recall special events in their own lives that have happened & sequence e.g. wedding, birthday, Christmas, Eid etc

Stories

- Ask children questions about what they have read
- Discuss openings, endings, settings and action stories with your child
- Retell the stories they have read or had read to them
- Identify the morals of stories – what is right or wrong and why
- Looking at books written by one author
- Look at non-fiction books about minibeasts

Out & About

- Play games involving kicking, running, throwing and catching
- Discuss position of objects outside
- Look for patterns in the environment
- Identify coins whilst shopping

In the Kitchen

- Share objects, e.g. beans, between 2 people
- Follow verbal instructions to cook
- Talk about safety when cooking and safe use of equipment
- Weigh items in scales

Making

- Make a minibeast collage
- Use things found outside to create pictures
- Mix paint colours together to create a garden image.

These are some of the activities which will be taking place during school lessons

Understanding the World

- Know the seasons and months of the year
- Observe, describe and sequence life cycles
- Similarities and differences between animals
- Talk about past events in our lives
- Use appropriate geographical vocabulary
- Gain an awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others
- To sort and classify materials

Physical Development

- Recognise changes in our bodies after exercise
- Jumping and landing safely from different starting positions
- Be aware of those people who can help us keep safe and healthy and what we do to keep healthy
- Be able to move to a beat
- Throwing, catching, aiming and hitting small equipment
- Begin to link movement together in short phrases
- Use a wide range of tools safely and with increased accuracy e.g. scissors, needle, etc
- Identify potential risks

Expressive Arts & Design

- Recognise how sounds can be changed
- Can record constructions through drawing and modify their designs
- Use imagination in art, design, music, dance, role play
- Discuss with children the purpose of the 'make' and possible solutions before construction. Make suggestions and ask questions about what is possible, e.g. 'I wonder what would happen if... Can you think of another way of doing it... Would you show me how it works?'



Mathematical Development

- Know 2D and some 3D shapes
- Compare 2 numbers up to 20 and say which is more /less / greater / smaller
- Use number bonds to 10. Different ways to make 10
- Use + and – up to 10
- Odd and even numbers
- Doubling and halving to 10
- Use language to describe position
- Compare 3 or more quantities by weight / capacity / size / length

Personal & Social Development

- Develop a sense of empathy and support others
- Consider the way they have changed since starting Reception
- Understand what is right / wrong and why
- Understand that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs and that they need to be treated with respect
- Ask for help and give help to others
- Talk about how we are different, what is special about some other people

Communication Language Development

- Awareness of consonant clusters
- Listening with increased attention
- Speaking with increased detail
- Take turns in group discussions
- Transfer understanding of story to different versions and analyse

Literacy

- Talk confidently about what they have read, characters in stories, sequencing events, logically using story openings, actions and endings
- Write for a variety of purposes, e.g. postcards, tickets, lists, letters
- Use full stops and capital letters when writing sentences
- Use information texts to find answers to simple questions
- Retell stories in the correct order
- Read Eric Carle books