

Reception Curriculum Overview Spring Term 2025/2026 - Our Learning



Curriculum Overview - Reception

Themes: 'Our Wider World' and 'Once Upon a Time...'

Literacy Reading

Key text: 'Same, Same But Different' by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Summary: Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same but different! This is a wonderful book celebrating similarities and differences.

Key text: 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers

Summary: Our world can be a bewildering place, especially if you've only just got here. Your head will be filled with questions, so let's explore what makes our planet and how we live on it. From land and sky, to people and time, these notes can be your guide and start you on your journey. And you'll figure lots of things out for yourself. Just remember to leave notes for everyone else... Some things about our planet are pretty complicated, but things can be simple, too: you've just got to be kind.

Key text: 'Dear Earth' by Isabel Otter

Summary: Dear Earth is a beautiful children's book that is about why we should love the planet, how it is being destroyed and what we can do to save it, told through the eyes of a little girl who cares a lot. Young Tessa loves listening to her Grandpa tell her stories about the Earth.

Key text: 'Meet the Planets' by Caryl Hart

Summary: It's ever so hard to imagine, because stars really look kind of small, that each one's a planet, a sun or a moon - they're not shining sequins at all! Join a young explorer as they jump into their rocket and zoom around the solar system. Each planet we meet introduces themselves with a fun rhyme, which includes bite-sized facts to ignite children's curiosity. The fun, rhyming format is perfect for helping young readers identify and remember each planet character. This book helps capture young children's imaginations and encourages them to ask more questions about what's out there, in space!

	<p>Key text: 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy Summary: Can Baby Bear reach the moon and back before bath time? Whatever next! Baby Bear wants to go on one more adventure before bed – a quick trip to the moon. Mrs Bear isn't pleased, and anyway, she says, Baby Bear doesn't have a rocket - but luckily, there's one under the stairs. Whatever next! Join Baby Bear as he finds a rocket, makes friends with an owl and has a picnic on the moon! A beautiful story of innocence and imagination, full of Jill Murphy's characteristic warmth and humour.</p>
	<p>Key text: 'Look Up!' by Nathan Bryon Summary: Meet hilarious, science-mad chatterbox, Rocket - she's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars? Bursting with energy and passion about science and space, this heart-warming, inspirational picture book will have readers turning off their screens and switching on to the outside world.</p>
	<p>Key texts: 'The Three Little Pigs', 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'The Little Red Hen'. During the second half of the Spring term the children will hear a variety of traditional tales as part of our overarching theme of 'Once Upon a Time'. Children will become familiar with repeated refrains and will be able to retell a number of these stories in their own words. Children will be encouraged to have a go at writing traditional tales and have a go at adapting the characters or plot.</p>
<p>Literacy</p>	<p>Children will continue learning to read using phonics, following the Read Write Inc. scheme. We will continue to teach children to read quickly and skillfully, matching sounds to single letters or phonemes to graphemes. During our free-flow sessions, children will be encouraged to write the sounds they have learnt, label drawings and write simple 3 and 4 letter words. We will continue to encourage children to write phonetically in a range of contexts, based on their interests and linked to our themes - 'Our World' for the first half term and 'Once upon a Time' after the half term holiday. We will also encourage children to look at books and share stories with adults.</p>

<p>Maths</p>	<p>We are learning about the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Numbers within 10 including more than and less than ● Addition and subtraction within 10 ● Number patterns within 15 ● Grouping and sharing ● 2D and 3D shapes
<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>Gross Motor skills The children will continue to use equipment to develop gross motor skills including bikes and scooters. We will work on coordination and balance, both individually and as a group. The children will continue to work on throwing and catching balls accurately and will make up their own rules when playing simple games. We will encourage the children to move using a range of movements including hopping, skipping, running, jumping, creeping, twisting and turning.</p> <p>Fine Motor skills We will continue to encourage the children to use a pencil effectively using the tripod grip in preparation for fluent writing. Children will use scissors for a range of purposes, cutting a variety of materials, they will thread beads, use pegs and tie a variety of materials in order to strengthen their hand muscles. The children will be painting, trying hard to maintain control when using thinner paint brushes.</p>
<p>Understanding the world</p>	<p>Past and Present The children will learn about our world in the past and now. We will learn about other countries, thinking carefully about climate differences, animals and cultures around the globe. Children will compare this to where we live. They will initially explore these concepts using a range of books and explore further based on their interests.</p> <p>People, Culture and Communities Using our themes children will explore role play areas from different cultures. We will ask them questions to help them engage and explore what are the similarities and differences between different cultures. The children will learn to celebrate what makes each culture special and unique. We will also explore how Christians celebrate Easter by looking at different books, resources and activities</p>

	<p>The Natural World</p> <p>As we move into Spring, the children will think carefully about new life and life cycles. We will have a fantastic opportunity to have duck eggs in Reception. We will watch them hatch, and learn to care for the ducks as they develop. Children will explore growth and nature, as well as looking at the changes that happen in the season of Spring. The children will also plant seeds and bulbs and observe them grow. We will discuss what is helping them to grow, which will support the children's understanding of how to care for the natural environment. Children will discuss how they and everyone around them can help to make the Earth a better place to live.</p>
<p>Expressive arts and design</p>	<p>Creating with materials</p> <p>The children will be encouraged to use resources appropriately to create observational drawings and pictures of living things such as plants and insects using a range of materials to express their feelings and ideas. They will be helped to verbally explain what they hope to create before being supported to select the best media in order to fulfil their ideas. We will learn about the importance of recycling and use junk modelling to create space rockets, planets and other models. Children will be encouraged to share their work with others, talking about the process of their work.</p>
	<p>Being imaginative and expressive</p> <p>The children will listen to different examples of music and be given the chance to explore instruments in order to create pieces of music of their own. They will discuss what they like and dislike about it and explore ways to move in time to it. Children will use costumes, masks, hats and materials to act out familiar stories and be encouraged to use these ideas to create their own stories independently and alongside their peers.</p>
<p>Personal Development</p>	<p>Dreams and Goals</p> <p>The children will continue to use the Jigsaw scheme of work to explore the unit 'Dreams and goals'. The children discuss being motivated, persevering, working hard and having a positive attitude. After half term</p>
	<p>Healthy Me</p> <p>Using our Jigsaw unit 'Healthy Me' children will discuss the importance of exercise, eating healthy foods, having sufficient sleep and the impact of good hygiene. We will talk about how a healthy lifestyle can make us feel better within ourselves. The unit also touches on awareness of strangers and how to stay safe.</p>