

Communication and Language

Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.
Learn new vocabulary.
Use new vocabulary through the day.
Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.
Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.
Describe events in some detail.
Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen.
Develop social phrases.
Engage in story times.
Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding.
Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words.
Use new vocabulary in different contexts.
Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
Learn rhymes, poems and songs.
Engage in non-fiction books.
Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

See themselves as a valuable individual.
Build constructive and respectful relationships.
Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others.
Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.
Think about the perspectives of others.
Manage their own needs.
- Personal hygiene
Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing:
- regular physical activity
- healthy eating
- toothbrushing
- sensible amounts of 'screen time'
- having a good sleep routine
- being a safe pedestrian

Understanding the World

Draw information from a simple map.
Explore the natural world around them.
Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.
Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Physical Development

Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired:
- rolling - walking - running - skipping
- crawling - jumping - hopping - climbing
Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.
Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility
Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.
Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.

Expressive Arts and Design

Explore colour and colour-mixing.
Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills

Spring term 1

Reception

Important Dates:

Engage: Dress up as a nocturnal animal – 12(TBC)th January

Express: Secret Pizza Party 12th February -4:30pm(TBC)

Lunar New Year-11.02.2026

Love to learn sessions -Monday 19th Jan and Monday 2nd February

Please regularly check Google Classroom and ParentMail.

What can we try at home?

Support handwriting by encouraging your child to trace shapes, letters and patterns, and to write or draw using different colours and tools.
Encourage independence by practising everyday skills such as putting on their coat and fastening zips or buttons.
Use chalk, crayons or large paper to draw big shapes, patterns and pictures to help strengthen hand and arm muscles.
Visit the local library together and explore both fiction and non-fiction books, talking about the differences between them.
Practise oral blending and segmenting sounds to support early reading and spelling.
Go on a winter walk and talk about what you notice outdoors, such as bare trees, cold weather, frost or early signs of seasonal change.

Mathematics

We will be helping children to count confidently beyond 10 and to compare numbers, for example deciding which number is bigger or smaller.
 Children will explore number bonds to 5 and 10, learning different ways numbers can be made by putting smaller numbers together.
 We will practise creating and continuing repeating patterns using objects, shapes and colours.
 Children will compare length, weight and capacity through practical activities, such as measuring how long or heavy something is and exploring how full containers can be.

Engage:

Engage: Dress up as a nocturnal animal – 12(TBC)th January

Express:

Secret Pizza Party 12th February -4:30pm(TBC)

What can we try at home?

Please continue practicing using cutlery.

Count everyday objects together, such as toys, steps, plates at the table or socks when tidying up. Ask questions like "Which group has more?" or "Which number is bigger or smaller?"

Use fingers, toys or snacks to show different ways to make numbers (for example, "I have 3 grapes, how many more do I need to make 5?"). Playing board games with dice is also a great way to practise this.

Literacy

During Spring 1, children will continue to develop their early reading skills. By this stage, children should be becoming confident at reading simple words by:

- Recognising the graphemes and saying the phonemes(sound) they have learned so far
- Blending sounds together to read simple words (for example: *c-a-t* → *cat*)
- Reading simple words and short captions with increasing confidence and independence
- Breaking words into sounds to help with spelling and early writing
- Recognising some common crafty words that they have learned
- Beginning to read simple sentences using their phonics knowledge

Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.
 Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing.
 Write some letters accurately.

Key Vocabulary:

help stuck crunchy comfortable	dreamed decided grab noticed	How you can help at home: Encourage your child to sound out and blend words when reading Practise common tricky words little and often Read together every day and talk about the story and pictures Encourage your child to have a go at writing simple words using the sounds they can hear
muttered chuckled drooped trapped	bright settled interesting padding	
carefully creeps tallest clambers	convenient politely tiring terrific	

This half term, we will be reading the books:

The Very Helpful Hedgehog – Rosie Wellesley

Superbat – Matt Carr

Max at Night – Ed Vere

How to Catch a Star – Oliver Jeffers

Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? – Martin Waddell

Secret Pizza Party – Adam Rubin