

RECEPTION & PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Welcome back
January 2026

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special family time. The children have come back full of energy and enthusiasm, and we're looking forward to another exciting term of learning together.

Below is a breakdown of what we'll be exploring this term across all areas of learning.

Literacy

This term in Literacy and Drawing Club, Reception and Preschool will be exploring a range of traditional tales, including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and The Little Red Hen. We will also be reading Jonty Gentoo, which links to our Antarctica and Winter theme in Understanding the World. The children will retell stories, talk about characters and settings, and create their own drawings and simple sentences inspired by each book.

Phonics

In Reception, the children will continue to learn new Phase 3 sounds while revisiting and consolidating their Phase 2 learning. They will practise blending sounds to read simple words and begin writing short captions and sentences using their growing phonics knowledge.

In Preschool, the focus will be on recapping the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n through playful and engaging activities. The children will also enjoy exploring rhyme, rhythm, and song to develop their early listening and sound awareness skills.

Maths

In Reception, the children will be following the White Rose unit 'Growing 6, 7, 8'. They will deepen their understanding of these numbers through counting, composition, and comparing amounts. The children will also explore length, height, and time, as well as 3D shapes and repeating patterns, using practical, hands-on activities and real-life examples.

In Preschool, the children will be exploring position and space, using language such as under, on top, behind, and next to. They will practise subitising (recognising amounts without counting) and begin counting and labelling 1, 2, and 3. The children will also investigate shape, space, and measure through playful exploration and problem-solving activities.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term, the children will be exploring our Antarctica theme through creative art, music, and movement. They will experiment with cold colours such as blue, white, and silver; explore the textures of ice and snow; and create 3D animal sculptures of penguins and seals. The children will also respond to wintry music through dance, explore printing icy patterns, and work together to make a large 'Frozen World' display to celebrate all they have learned about the cold environment.

Music

This term, the children will explore Musical Stories, a unit based on traditional children's tales and songs. They will move to music by following instructions and changing their actions to match the tempo, pitch, or dynamics of each piece. The children will also discover how music and instruments can represent moods or characters, and they will work together to play instruments as part of a group story performance.

Physical Education (PE)

This term in PE, the children will be developing their gymnastics skills. They will learn to move with control and confidence, exploring different ways of balancing, rolling, jumping, and travelling across mats and apparatus. The children will also work on linking movements together and following simple routines to build strength, coordination, and body awareness.

Computing

This term, the children will be learning about simple algorithms by giving and following instructions to make things happen. They will explore programming with Bee-Bots, creating and testing short routes to reach a goal. The children will also follow and sequence a set of instructions in real life by making bread and bird feeders, helping them understand how step-by-step directions can be used both in computing and everyday activities.

Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE)

This term, our PSHE theme is Valuing Difference. The children will be learning to recognise what makes them special and unique in lessons such as I'm Special, You're Special and Same and Different. They will also explore different families and homes, and learn about being caring and a good friend. Through stories, circle times, and role play, the children will develop respect, kindness, and understanding towards others.

Forest School

This term, the children will continue to enjoy exploring the outdoors in all weathers! Please ensure your child comes to Forest School in appropriate winter clothing, including warm layers, waterproofs, and wellies, and that they bring a spare set of clothes. We'll be learning about nature in winter and developing independence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through hands-on outdoor experiences.

At Home

We value the home-school partnership and our open-door policy with families. We appreciate your continued support and the valuable learning that takes place at home to complement what we do in school.

- Read daily with your child.
- Please continue to ensure all items are clearly labelled.
- Encourage independence wherever possible.

Talk to your child about what they are learning at school.

Key Dates & Notices – Spring Term 2026

Forest School for Class 1 and Class 2 starts on 7th January

EYFS Taster Day – Friday 9th January 9am-11am

Join us for our exciting 'Pole to Pole' themed taster session, where children can explore fun activities linked to the Arctic and Antarctica!

Please call the school office to secure a place.

Valentine's Day – Friday 14th February

Chinese New Year – Tuesday 17th February

(We will be celebrating this the week before due to half term.)

Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) – Tuesday 17th February