

A selection of topics/activities that may be covered by Reception Class.

Understanding the World

Learn about the natural world and observe changes in the seasons. Learn about different environments and make observations and comparisons. Explore reversible changes, for example, water/ice and properties of materials. Learn about different festivals, including Yom Kippur and Holi. Find out about the importance of Easter to Christians. Use a range of technology and software, including ipads, interactive whiteboard, beebots.

Physical Development

Activities to develop fundamental movement skills, early gymnastic skills and ball skills. Develop fine motor skills with a particular focus on the safe and accurate use of scissors, pencil grip and cutlery/kitchen utensils. Strengthen fine motor skills through using construction toys, jigsaw puzzles, playdough/clay, drawing, painting, cutting and sticking activities. Develop handwriting, concentrating on correct formation of letters. Use a range of tools and utensils, for example, during creative activities.

Maths

Sing songs and counting rhymes which recite number names in order forwards and backwards and support number bond knowledge to 5. Subitise to 5. Play number games which involve counting and matching, such as dominoes, snakes and ladders and jigsaws. Practise number recognition and formation of numbers to 10 and beyond. Order numbers to 10 and beyond. Develop understanding of addition and subtraction and explore number patterns, for example, odd and even. Practical measuring, for example, compare capacities of different containers through water and sand play. Look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Spring Term 2026

Main Focus –
Antarctica/Traditional
Tales

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Explore different emotions and ways to respond to different situations. Promote the forming of good relationships with others and taking turns when listening and playing games. Promote positive behaviour and reinforce home and class expectations. . Opportunities to develop resilience and a positive attitude to learning. Scarf Unit: Keeping Safe: Explore what is safe is to go in/on our bodies. Learn how to keep ourselves safe and who can help us. Keeping safe online. Scarf Unit: Rights and Respect: Looking after each other. Caring for our world.

Expressive Arts and Design

Make models and pictures using different materials. Develop skills in drawing. Explore different media and techniques such as watercolours and printing. Learn a range of rhymes and songs. Opportunities to use imagination in music and movement, story telling and dancing. Role-play and small world play.

Communication and Language /Literacy

Provide opportunities for the children to talk and plan how they will begin and carry out a task, such as role play, games and model making. Access to a range of texts – fiction and non-fiction. Share news, feelings and ideas. Discussion of stories including the main events, characters, choice of vocabulary, predicting possible endings and comprehension. Writing for a range of purposes, making labels, writing captions, lists, invitations etc. Use the Writing Checklist to support writing. Participate in the school's Book Week. Daily phonics teaching using Little Wandle phonics and early reading programme. Weekly reading practice sessions.