



Reception Autumn Term Learning Plan 2025/26

Subject	Focus
Religious Education	<p><u>Creation – God’s Gifts</u> This unit explores the theme of creation, helping children recognise their own gifts and talents as God-given. They will also learn that the Bible is God’s special book.</p> <p><u>People Who Care for Us</u> This unit builds on children’s understanding of family relationships, focusing on the importance of caring for one another. It highlights the value of celebration, including examples of times when Jesus celebrated with his family and friends.</p> <p><u>Advent</u> In this unit, children learn about the season of Advent, with each week offering a focused preparation activity. They also begin to understand the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and how it marks the four Sundays of Advent.</p>
Communication and Language	Reception children will develop their ability to express ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. They will learn how to start a conversation with an adult or a friend and keep it going over several turns. They will also begin to take part in small group discussions, using new vocabulary. As well as this, they will practise sitting, listening, and responding appropriately for sustained periods, while growing more confident in using a range of tenses accurately in context.
Physical Development	<p>The children will become more independent in everyday tasks, such as putting on their own coats. They will also build confidence when using play equipment, which supports the development of their core and upper body strength. Fine motor skills will be developed through activities such as cutting, threading and using small tools, while gross motor skills will be enhanced through opportunities to ride bikes and engage in active outdoor play.</p> <p>A focus will be placed on developing a comfortable pencil grip with good control, as well as beginning to form letters correctly. The children will also practise walking up the stairs with alternating feet, gradually developing confidence in this skill. During PE lessons, the children will explore ‘Travel’ and ‘Movement’. They will work towards developing coordination, control and confidence in physical activity.</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Children will begin to build positive relationships with adults and form friendships with their peers. They will develop a sense of belonging as they become familiar with their new environment, including the classroom, outdoor area, playground and hall. Through stories, circle times, and play, children will learn to talk about different feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger, fear and love. They will practise expressing their own emotions appropriately while beginning to recognise and respond to the feelings of others with empathy and care. Reception will also start to understand the importance of rules and routines, learning how these help everyone to feel safe and supported. They will take part in daily routines with growing independence and begin to manage their own needs, such as dressing, organising belongings and making healthy choices. Over time, children will develop confidence, resilience, and the skills needed to work and play cooperatively with others.
English	<p>The children will explore texts linked to the topics ‘You and Me’ and ‘Let’s Celebrate’, including stories such as <i>The Gingerbread Man</i> and <i>Stick Man</i>. This term, they will also focus on the author Trish Cook, reading some of her books, including <i>So Much!</i></p> <p>Through the Sound Start Phonics program, the children will develop their knowledge of individual letters and the sounds they represent. They will begin to read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter–sound correspondences, as well as a few common exception words. As well as this, they will practise hearing, saying, and writing the sounds in words based on their phonic knowledge, and begin to write and read back some common exception words. The children will also start to segment sentences into individual</p>

	<p>words and hold these in their memory. They will use their growing print and letter knowledge in early writing, accurately writing their name and some letters, and beginning to apply these skills in simple sentences.</p>
Mathematics	<p>The children will follow the White Rose Maths scheme, developing their understanding of patterns by continuing, copying and creating repeating patterns. They will explore shapes by selecting, rotating, and manipulating them to enhance spatial reasoning skills. In both the indoor and outdoor learning environments, children will compare and measure length, weight, and capacity, building their understanding of early measurement concepts. Reception will also explore the composition of numbers up to 5, refining their ability to count objects, actions and sounds accurately. They will practise subitising—recognising quantities without counting—and develop number sense by linking numerals to their corresponding cardinal values. Children will compare numbers, explore how numbers can be composed, and begin to understand the concepts of one more and one less.</p>
Understanding the World	<p>This term, children will explore the natural world around them, learning about the season of Autumn and investigating features of their local environment through an environment walk. They will also develop an understanding that information can be found in books and on the internet.</p> <p>Reception will talk about members of their family and community, exploring different cultures and recognising that some places are special to different people. They will also begin to understand that people hold different beliefs and celebrate special times in a variety of ways.</p> <p>These experiences support the EYFS Early Learning Goals for ‘Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities, and The Natural World, encouraging curiosity, respect, and understanding of the world around them.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>This term, children will develop their drawing skills with increasing detail, for example creating self-portraits that represent faces with circles and added features. They will explore a variety of mark-making materials and experiment with different joining techniques through open-ended creative activities. Children will also be inspired by artists through the Kapow! Art program and participate in a weekly art lesson.</p> <p>In music, children will listen attentively, move to, and discuss music, expressing their feelings and responses using the Charanga music program.</p> <p>During play, children will begin to develop storylines in their pretend play, using props and materials to role-play characters and act out narratives and stories.</p> <p>These experiences support the EYFS Early Learning Goals for Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive, fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression across visual arts, music, and imaginative play.</p>