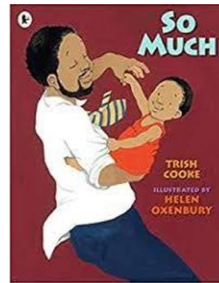




# Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026

## Autumn 1 — Starting School & Ourselves



Welcome to Reception! Our topic this term is Starting School and Ourselves. As part of this topic, we will be reading several core books including All About Me, How Do You Feel?, So Much, My Family Book, Who Do I See In the Mirror?, Femi the Fox and Dem Bones.

The children will be learning all about school, the people who work in a school and the jobs they do. They will also be settling into Reception by doing lots of Personal, Social and Emotional work as well as focusing on their communication and language skills. The children will be learning to identify their own emotions and developing strategies for coping with change.

At the beginning of term, we will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction books to engage the children with the pleasures of reading. The children will also be reading books aimed at their current level of phonic knowledge as the term progresses. The children will be writing for a range of different purposes and learning to form letters from their initial mark-making. They will learn to hear sounds and then link the sounds to letters.

### The Goldilocks Words

The key vocabulary the children will learn, understand and use by the end of the term:

**school teacher office corridor hall family friends**

### You can help your child by:

- Talking about who is in their family, who their friends are and what makes them special.
- Talking about how they are feeling and why.

### Key messages:

- P.E. for RM will be on Friday. Please can you make sure your child has a PE kit at school.
- Please share a story with them and talk about it — encourage them to predict what might happen next, how it makes them feel, etc.

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| <b>In English we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear and say the initial sounds in words and link sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters in the alphabet.</li> <li>• Write our name.</li> <li>• Show our wish for the year.</li> <li>• Write initial sounds.</li> </ul> | <b>In Maths we will learn to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise numerals of personal significance.</li> <li>• Recognise numerals 1–5.</li> <li>• Count objects to 10 and beyond.</li> <li>• Select the correct numeral to represent 1–5 and then 10 objects.</li> </ul> | <b>In Understanding the World we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about Ourselves and why/how we are special.</li> <li>• Talk about members of their immediate family and community.</li> </ul> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write appointment cards and messages using phonic knowledge.</li> </ul>                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about when there are more/lots/less and fewer objects.</li> <li>• Start to represent number, e.g. in role play activities.</li> <li>• Count and match some quantity to numeral (some children with support recognising numeral and counting).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that some places are special to members of their community.</li> <li>• Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.</li> <li>• Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>In RE we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our theme in Autumn 1 is 'Creation'. Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?</li> </ul>                                        | <p><b>In Music we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn rhythm and new songs.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>In PE we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to negotiate space and find a space without bumping into each other.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>In Computing we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to understand how technology is used in everyday life, such as using a tablet, camera or interactive whiteboard.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Autumn 2 — Nursery Rhymes, Celebrations and Winter



Welcome to Autumn 2! This half term our topic is Nursery Rhymes, Celebrations and Winter. We will be learning and performing a range of traditional nursery rhymes including Sing a Song of Sixpence, Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy Spider. Through these familiar rhymes, children will develop their speaking and listening skills, build vocabulary and learn to retell stories in sequence.

We will also learn about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and explore how families celebrate this special occasion. Later in the term, we will learn about Christmas, its traditions and the Christian story of the Nativity.

In English, we will continue to develop our phonics knowledge by learning new sounds and using them in our reading and writing. We will enjoy both fiction and non-fiction texts, including a non-fiction book about penguins, helping us learn facts and develop our understanding of the world around us.

Throughout the half term, children will continue to build confidence, independence and friendships while developing their communication, language and early literacy skills.

### The Goldilocks Words

The key vocabulary the children will learn, understand and use by the end of the term:

**nursery rhyme Diwali celebration festival light spider penguin winter Christmas Nativity**

### You can help your child by:

- Singing nursery rhymes together at home.
- Practising their phonics sounds regularly.
- Sharing stories every day and talking about what happens in the story.
- Encouraging children to spot rhymes and repeated words.
- Talking about different celebrations and family traditions.

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| <b>In English we will learn to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Read and write using our growing phonic knowledge.</li><li>● Learn and use new sounds.</li><li>● Join in with and retell nursery rhymes.</li><li>● Learn facts from a non-fiction text about penguins.</li><li>● Write labels, captions and simple sentences.</li><li>● Use finger spaces and hear initial sounds in words.</li></ul> | <b>In Maths we will learn to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Recognise, represent and compare numbers.</li><li>● Count reliably and match quantities to numerals.</li><li>● Explore repeating patterns.</li><li>● Compare size, mass and capacity.</li><li>● Use mathematical language such as more, fewer, equal and altogether.</li></ul> | <b>In Understanding the World we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Learn about Diwali and Christmas.</li><li>● Explore similarities and differences between celebrations.</li><li>● Learn about winter and seasonal changes.</li><li>● Find out facts about penguins and where they live.</li><li>● Talk about their own family traditions and experiences.</li></ul> |
| <b>In RE we will:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>In Music we will:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>In PE we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop our ball skills.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incarnation — Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn and perform traditional nursery rhymes.</li> <li>• Explore rhythm, rhyme and repetition.</li> <li>• Sing Christmas songs and carols.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to move safely in different ways.</li> <li>• Work cooperatively with others during games and activities.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>In Computing we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use technology safely and confidently.</li> <li>• Use tablets and interactive technology to support our learning.</li> <li>• Explore simple educational programs and activities.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                    |