

Reception Newsletter

Week Beginning – Monday 14th September 2026

Well done to our Reception children for completing their first full week at school! We are really impressed with how they are already demonstrating our characteristics of learning!

Well done Moles, Badgers and Hedgehogs – the Reception Team are SO proud of you!

We really enjoyed meeting lots of parents and carers at our Teddy Bears Picnic. We hope that you had a fantastic time and used the opportunity to mingle and get to know our fabulous Reception community. 😊



Encouraging independence

Please could you ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled. This helps to ensure any misplaced items make their way back to you. To help encourage children to be more independent, please share with them what their label looks like.

You could also add **one** special keyring to their book bag, so it is quickly identifiable to your child.

We sometimes get a bit messy, sandy or wet from enjoying our activities. Please ensure your child has named spare clothes (in a separate bag) at all times in school. This can be left on their peg.

Reception Baseline Assessment

For the first few weeks we will be engaging your child in short activities to establish a baseline for their learning. This helps to inform our planning and teaching, whatever level your child is starting from.

Phase 1 Phonics

This week, we will continue Phase 1 Phonics activities. Phase 1 Phonic activities concentrate on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is **to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills**. This week we will focus on developing an awareness of:

- Sounds in the environment
- Sounds made with instruments
- Sounds and rhythms



cat



bat



hat



Family theme

This week, we will be focusing our activities on families! We will be

- drawing and painting our families
- using loose parts to create pictures of our families
- counting out the correct number of family members
- using our fine motor skills to hang out washing and feed 'babies' using pom poms and tweezers.
- Investigating different family make-ups



Understanding the World

This week, the children will be talking about their families and who is important to them. We will be sharing stories about families and how families are made up in different ways.

Vocabulary is a key area we will be developing, so we will be introducing the children to a wide range of ambitious vocabulary.

For our session on **Tuesday** it would be really lovely if your child could bring in a photo from home of their family to keep in school- no special ones please. Please make sure it is named on the back!



Physical Education

This half term, children will develop their fundamental movement skills through the topic of 'places and spaces'. Children will develop skills of balancing, running, hopping, jumping, travelling and changing direction. Children will develop fine and gross motor skills, through handling equipment. They will learn how to stay safe using space and understand and follow rules and instructions. They work independently and with a partner to complete tasks. Physical development also involves getting changed. Your child should come to school in their PE kit. You can help your child at home by encouraging their independence when getting dressed and undressed at home, including putting on/removing jumpers and coats.

Mole Class will have PE on Tuesday.

Badger Class will have PE on Friday.

Hedgehog Class will have PE on Thursday.



PE Kit



Children should wear a plain white t-shirt, a pair of dark green or black shorts or jogging bottoms, a green jumper and trainers. PE kits should be named.





Mathematics

We are continuing to carry out our Mathematics baseline assessments, before we start teaching the children. This week, the children will be looking at a variety of Maths activities linked to our theme of families.



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will create their family. They will think about the different parts of a body. They will be encouraged to use 'loose parts' and natural materials.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Every morning, the children complete a 'feelings check in'. This week, we will continue to talk about how we feel, why and how to manage our feelings. We will also be talking about our families and what makes our families special.

We will also look at the photos the children have brought in of their families and display these in our home corner in a photo album and use them for discussions.



Class Pet

Each class has a cuddly class pet which will go home with a different child each Friday. They have their own dedicated bag, story book and diary which should return to school the following Thursday. In the diary, you and your child can write, draw or add photographs to show what they did with the class pet! We look forward to hearing all about their adventures together.



Reminders

- If your child has **grapes, blueberries or tomatoes** for their snack or lunch time, please can we ask that they are cut in half. These foods can be a choking hazard. Please make sure the snack is a fruit or vegetable only.
- Please ensure that all items brought into school are clearly **named**.
- Please ensure that water bottles are **not** in bookbags.
- If you need any **WOW forms** to record special moments at home for us to share in school, please ask your child's class teacher.
- It would be great if you could bring in any recycling for our junk modelling area. Please could these be small boxes, egg cartons, etc - **no toilet roll tubes due to hygiene**.



Thank you from the Reception Team!

