

Topic Snapshot: Reception

Term 1: Me, Myself and I

Below you will find an outline of how the topic links to the EYFS curriculum (*blue text*), the key skills which link to effective learning and development (*black text*) and ideas for supporting pupils at home (*red text*).

Communication and Language

The children will explore books, songs, and rhymes about themselves, including topics like body parts, likes and dislikes, and feelings. Children will learn the importance of listening carefully and will participate in small group, one-to-one, and whole class discussions. Encourage your child to practice taking turns speaking and listening during conversations with you. Have conversations with your child about books to help them learn new vocabulary. Talk about the pictures in the books and ask your child what their favorite part is.



Literacy

We will give the children lots of opportunities to read and write
E.g. making lists, making cards, writing letters, writing name cards. Begin to write recognisable letters.

Read individual letters by saying the sound of them. The children will be bringing letter sheets home to practise reading and writing each sound as they learn them.

Writes own name.
At home, practise writing their name using lower case letters.



Maths

Children will be encouraged to count items during their play. Count objects to 10, and begin to count beyond 10. At home, you could count toys, food items, steps and look out for numbers around you. We will be using shapes to create pictures and explore patterns. Begin to spot shapes and patterns. Try to find shapes in the world around you and name them with your child.



Expressive Art and Design

Children will begin to represent their ideas through drawing and mark making. We will use different tools—pencils, crayons, wax and paint, to make different types of marks. Play with a wide range of materials and media. **At home, encourage your child to draw their ideas and things that they can see.**



Personal, social & Emotional Development

We will establish daily and weekly routines in reception class. We will spend lots of time working on key skills needed to become part of a team. Increasingly follows rules, understanding why they are important. We will be developing independence in the toilet and when changing for PE. Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs. **At home, encourage your child to practise these key skills.**



Understanding the World

We will be talking about the people in our families and exploring our family tree. Talks about the lives of the people around them.

Spend some time creating your own family tree and bring your completed version in. We will bring in photos of ourselves as babies to share and discuss.

Notices similarities between our lives when we were babies and our lives now. **When you are out and about, you could talk about the different age groups that you see and what they are able to do.**



Physical development

The children will have fun in the hall, playing simple games and moving around. They will also use the adventure play equipment near the field (called the Trailblazer). They will also play with bikes, trikes, and other play-ground equipment. Confidently and safely uses a large range of equipment, inside and outside. **You could take your child to play outside in a park.**

Children will also take part in lots of activities including play dough, cutting, bead threading and handwriting to name but a few. Use a range of small tools, including scissors and paint brushes. **You could encourage your child to cut different lines and shapes, reminding them of how to be safe with scissors.**

Additional Information:

In the first few weeks, staff will conduct the required Reception Baseline Assessment. This is a short and practical check of your child's early communication, literacy, and math skills. You will receive more information about this soon.

Please don't worry – our teachers are very experienced, and your child will enjoy spending some one-on-one time with their teacher while participating in a fun activity.

Important Information for Parents:

- **School Hours:** The school day starts at 8:45 AM and ends at 3:15 PM. Please ensure you arrive on time at the start and end of each day to avoid any disruption or upset for the children.
- **Pick-up Arrangements:** If someone different is picking up your child, or if your contact numbers have changed, please inform a classroom staff member or call the School Office. This helps us ensure all children are safely picked up and we can contact you if needed.
- **Label Belongings:** Please label all your child's belongings with their name. PE bags should stay at school and be taken home at the end of the term (T-shirt, shorts, cuffed tracksuit bottoms).
- **Footwear:** Velcro shoes are best for younger children to manage independently.
- **Earrings:** Hooped earrings are not allowed in school for safety reasons.
- **Book Bags:** Please send your child to school with their Book Bag every day.
- **Speaking to Teachers:** To give your children our full attention in the mornings, please wait until the end of the day to speak to the Teacher about non-urgent matters, after all children have been safely dismissed.
- **Helping Out:** We always appreciate help in the classroom! If you're interested in assisting, please speak to the school office to complete a DBS form. A current DBS is required for school trips and other activities.
- **Support:** We understand that starting school can be a stressful time. If you have any concerns, no matter how small, please let us know. We're here to help.

We would be very grateful if you could donate any of the following items for our Reception classes. Please make sure they are clean and in good condition:

- Good quality used toys (puzzles, building blocks, etc.)
- Dolls and doll accessories
- Prams and pushchairs
- Dress-up clothes and costumes.

Thank you for your help!

We hope that you all have a fantastic Term 1!

The Reception Team