Orchard Primary School

Reception Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 2 (2026)

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank you for all your support with your child's learning during their first half term of Reception. It is also wonderful to see so many families attending weekly Parents into Reading and Parent Coffee Mornings too.

Please be reminded that the children take home two reading books each week - one that is linked to their phonics phase learning in class and the second is a colour book banded pleasure reader.

Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to get in touch. We are available to talk after school on most days.

Information about what your child will learn this half term is on the reverse page.

We hope you have a fun and restful half term break.

Best wishes,

Reception team

Dates for your diary

Key dates including class assemblies, enrichment days / events and coffee mornings can be found on our school website calendar or on our parent dates letter sent out at the beginning of every half term.

PE

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school on their timetabled PE days. It is advised that your child keeps their kit in school throughout the week in case of any timetable changes. Children must have a full PE kit (a white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls) to ensure personal hygiene and safety.

PE Days:

- Apple Class - Tuesday
- Cherry - Wednesday

Homework

Homework will be given out every Thursday and is to be returned the following Monday. Please support your child to complete the activities set but also allow them the opportunity to record this independently to practise their letter and number formation.

Children will receive two reading books, which will be changed every week. Please remember to leave a comment in the Home School Diary and make sure you read each day with your child.

Our topic this half term is Deserts and Iceburgs

Communication and Language

We will be learning to:

- Develop social phrases.
- Engage in story times.
- Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
- Engage in non-fiction books.

Literacy

We will be learning to:

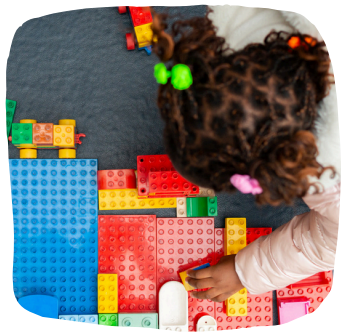
- Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.
- Read a few common exception words.
- Form lowercase and capital letters correctly.

Maths

We will be learning to:

- Count objects, actions and sounds.
- Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value.
- Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.
- Continue, copy and create repeating patterns.





Physical Development

We will be learning to:

- Confidently and safely use a range of large and small indoor and outdoor apparatus, alone and in a group.
- Develop overall body strength, balance, coordination and agility.
- Further develop the skills we need to manage the school day successfully: lining up and queuing, mealtimes and personal hygiene.

Understanding the World

We will be learning to:

- Explore the natural world around us.
- Describe what we see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around us.

Expressive Art and Design

We will be learning to:

- Develop storylines in our pretend play.
- Create our own songs, or improvise a song around one we know.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be learning to:

- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Identify and moderate our own feelings socially and emotionally.
- Think about the perspectives of others.
- Manage our own needs.