



Reception Curriculum Overview

Term 1 2026–27

Topics: *We are Unique*

Discover what your child will be learning this term.

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will build a supportive classroom community where every child feels safe, confident, and valued by practising active listening and respecting one another's ideas. Children will learn strategies to share, take turns, and resolve small play disagreements so they can play respectfully. They will also learn new emotional vocabulary, including *frustrated* and *focused*, through the Zones of Regulation, which will help them express feelings and practise calming strategies. They will read *My Body Has a Bubble* to support their understanding of personal space and boundaries.



Communication and Language

The children will be supported to become confident talkers and active listeners. They will pair with a friend during group learning to share ideas, answer questions, and practise back-and-forth conversations. Through our Plan, Do and Review approach in play, children will learn to plan their activities, talk about what they are doing, and reflect on their learning. We will also teach them useful phrases to help build friendships and ask to join in play.

Physical Development

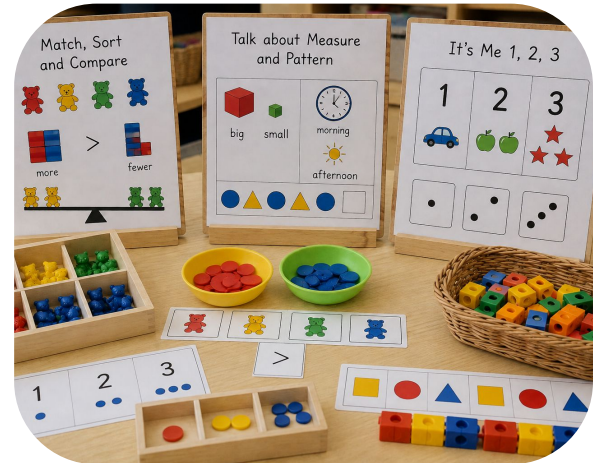
Children will build strength, balance, and coordination to support physical confidence and early writing. They will play collaborative games such as large snakes and ladders, navigate obstacle courses, and move big objects together to develop spatial awareness. Children will practise independence by putting on their shoes and dressing themselves after physical education and swimming. They will also strengthen their hands for a comfortable pencil grip through activities like Dough Disco, drawing life-size outlines, and making large-scale marks.



Specific Areas

Mathematics

We follow the White Rose Maths scheme to build strong foundations through hands on play and practical games. In our Match, Sort and Compare unit, children will learn to group items by colour or size and compare amounts. In our Talk about Measure and Pattern unit, they will explore size, daily routines, and simple repeating patterns. In our Its Me 1, 2, 3 unit, children will focus deeply on numbers to three, learning to count objects accurately, match items, and spot small groups of objects instantly without counting.



Literacy

We will read picture books such as *You Choose*, *The Family Book*, and *The Rainbow Fish* to grow children's vocabulary and love of stories. The children will also develop their oral storytelling skills by creating simple picture sequences to retell the story '*From Head to Toe*'. They will begin their phonics journey using Twinkl Phonics to learn some single letter sounds and blend them together to read simple words like mum and dad. They will also develop early writing skills with our Letter Join program and use their new sounds in play as they draw family portraits, label body outlines, and write cards for friends.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be encouraged to express themselves creatively using their imagination to develop individuality and artistic skills during play. They will draw self portraits using photos and mirrors for observation and use the Mat Man song to learn how to draw a body. Children will also paint family portraits, build homes using construction materials, and explore shared art with loose parts. Through role play, they will use props and costumes from different cultures and express their feelings by moving in different ways to music from around the world



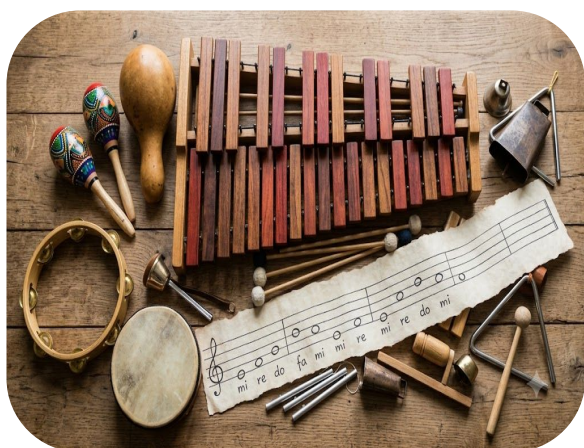
Specific Areas

Understanding the World

The children will talk about themselves and celebrate what makes them unique, sharing their interests, likes, and dislikes with friends. They will explore the five senses, name body parts, and compare baby photos to how they look now, noticing how their bodies grow and change. The children will talk about their family, describe familiar people, and compare different types of homes. They will also learn about friendships, spot similarities and differences with their friends, and discover the richness of our global community through different cultures, languages, traditions, and celebrations.



Music



I've Got a Grumpy Face

In this unit, children explore music through singing, facial expressions, and movement to express different feelings and emotions. They practise following the high and low shapes of a melody with their voices while keeping a steady beat through physical actions. The children will create their own words and actions, using their voices and percussion instruments to explore different sound qualities and moods.

Key Vocabulary: Beat, Pitch, Tempo, Melody, Rhythm

PE

The children stay active, strong, and confident through our regular PE and swimming lessons. During PE, they take part in gymnastics and dance to practise balance, build body strength, and learn to move safely around others. In swimming, children learn to feel safe and happy in the water while building independence by practicing getting changed by themselves. Our step-by-step swimming pathway helps every child feel safe, happy, and confident in the water at their own pace.



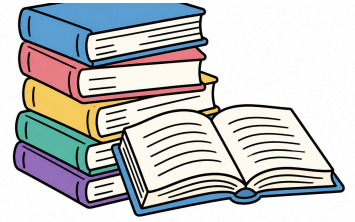


Supporting Learning at Home

Useful activities and ways to help your child.

Make Reading Part of Everyday Life

Encourage your child to enjoy reading books. Build reading into your daily routine and choose physical books wherever possible to develop a lifelong love of reading. It does not matter if your child is discussing books in a language other than English, we want them talking about and engaging with books and stories.



Ideas	
Communication & Language	Talk together during daily routines to introduce new words. For example while cooking, walking, or bathing. Encourage your child to speak in full sentences using phrases like "I think...", "I like...", or "I can..."
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Use the Zones of Regulation to talk about feelings during different parts of the day. Encourage your child to try new things and stay resilient when something feels tricky
Physical Development	Practise fine motor skills by using playdough at home to build hand strength for writing. Encourage your child to dress themselves independently and practise doing up the zips on their jackets
Understanding the World	Notice changes in nature, weather, and your local environment when walking together. Ask open questions such as " <i>What do you notice?</i> " or " <i>Why do you think that happened?</i> " to develop curiosity and critical thinking.
Literacy	Play sound games at home by spotting starting sounds in everyday objects. For example, using the letter sound s for spoon rather than the letter name.
Mathematics	Spot numbers to 10 and shapes together on walks or around the house. Have fun sorting laundry or toys by size and colour, and talk about size during play using words such as <i>longer</i> or <i>shorter</i> .
Expressive Arts and Design	Set up a creative space at home with paper, cardboard boxes, and drawing tools. Let your child freely experiment with joining materials together using tape and glue and focus on the fun process of making rather than a perfect final product
General Learning	Remember to check Seesaw. Talk about the posts with your child. Ask them questions about they are doing or who they are exploring with.