Reception **Autumn 2 2026**

Topic: ***Celebrations!***

Communication and Language

This half term we will continue to develop the children's listening skills and encouraging them to take turns in a conversation. To do this, we will be having regular circle times, playing action games and singing songs and rhymes. This will help the children develop their confidence when working as part of a larger group. We will also be working on using language as a way of communicating effectively with others. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they have been learning and any observations they have made.

Physical Development

We will be focusing on developing children's fine and gross motor skills. There will be a variety of experiences to support this such as, ball and hoop games, climbing equipment, and using tools in the creative areas, mud kitchen and threading. This half term in P.E we will be exploring dance and thinking about how we can move our bodies in time to music. We will continue to practise self-care skills such as the children getting dressed by themselves and taking care of their own belongings.

PSED and British values

We will be developing our PSED skills every day as we listen to others, gain confidence, ask for help and build relationships. To help regulate their emotions the children will continue to use the Zones of Regulation display to record how they are feeling and begin to develop strategies to support their emotions. In our PSHE lessons, we will be using the school-wide Jigsaw program. Our next unit is called 'Celebrating difference,' we will be thinking about what makes us special and unique and celebrating this with our friends.

Mathematics

This half term the children will be visiting Numberland to help develop their number skills. During their visit the children will be recognising numbers, matching amounts and completing challenges. We will be looking at finding 1 more and 1 less and writing the corresponding numeral. As part of our weekly maths challenge we will be focusing on number formation.

Expressive Arts and Design

We are exploring painting skills this half term. Specifically, we will be looking at colour mixing, light and dark shades and the different resources we can use. We will be looking at Van Gogh's Starry Night' picture and having a go at creating our own version. As part of World Nursery Rhyme Week we will be looking at a range of familiar Nursery Rhymes, such as Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

Home – School learning

Families play such an essential part in their child's development. You will be able to access observations of your child on Tapestry, as well as watching our story of the week videos. We ask families to build on our learning in reception by reading their reading book or other books from home daily. This will support your child's reading fluency, comprehension and confidence.

Role play themes

This half term the role play area is set up as a potion shop and will then become a Winter wonderland. This will enable the children to develop their language and communication skills and develop their imagination. The children will have the opportunity to create their own role play using simple resources that engage their imaginations. Role play opportunities extend to the outdoor learning environment.

Understanding the World

We will be learning about lots of different celebrations and festivals such as Bonfire night, Diwali, Remembrance day and Christmas. We will also talk about similarities and differences between the festivals. We will continue to explore our new software 'Purple Mash' where the children will be able to explore the technology interactively. We will also take part in weekly forest school type activities.

Literacy

Reading and Phonics - Each week in Reception we will be focusing on 'Our story of the week.' We will read this book every day and encourage the children to retell, act out and talk about the story. This half term we be continuing to use the Little Wandle Phonics scheme to introduce the phase 2 sounds and digraphs. We will continue to segment and blend words using our new knowledge. Check our weekly 'story of the week' videos on Tapestry to see your teacher reading the story we will be learning about in the following week. This will help you familiarise yourself with the plot, characters, events and actions that we will be learning about.

Writing – There are lots of opportunities for the children to incorporate writing into their child-initiated learning and practise their new phonics knowledge. They are encouraged to mark make and add labels to drawings and models. We will be focusing on name writing and letter formation.