Reception Newsletter November 2026



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for all your support and for your delightful children who really are a credit to you all. They are all doing so well, making good progress and enjoying their learning. This half term our topic is Winter Wonderland. We will be covering the following areas…

Understanding the World

We will be learning about…

how Hindu's celebrate Diwali

about ice melting

investigating how polar bears keep warm.

the different animals that live in the Arctic and the Antarctic

Literacy

We will be…

Learning new vocabulary and speaking a simple sentence

practising letter formation and letter sounds and blending them together to read and write words. (c, a, o, d, g, q)

The children will be practising their names with correct letter formation.

The children will write initial sounds and simple three letter words.

We will be mark making for different purposes including a poster for a missing pet and a letter to the zookeeper

Mathematics we will be…

Focus on counting skills.

Focus on the 'five-ness of 5' using die pattern for 5 and one hand.

Comparison of sets by matching

Using language of comparison

Explore the concept of 'whole' and 'part'.

Composition of 3, 4 and 5

Practise counting objects

Verbal counting of 20

Creativity

We will be

using different textures for collage.

drawing penguins and polar bears.

making different Christmas crafts.

making stamps to print with.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

We will be learning about…

how we are all good at different things.

how we are all special.

about families and homes.

how to stick up for ourselves.

Reading

Please ensure that your child's reading books and diaries are in their bag every day. Your child's books will be changed on different days, and we cannot change their book if they do not return the one they have at home. Please keep the blending books and the lilac and red sticker books very safely in the book bags.

Please ensure that you write in their diary, so we know how your child is doing at home with the school books.

We do not comment as we would rather spend our time with your child but we do read your comments.

There will be a box of library books outside for you to swap as often as you like. These are the books for you to read to your children.

Reminders and requests

Please send your child with a bottle of water each day. Milk is provided by school, please register online. It is free until your child turns five.

Please **do not** allow your child to bring toys into school, this is to avoid any upset when they become lost or broken.

Now that the school field is wet, please don't allow your child to run on the school fields in the morning, this is to avoid bringing mud into the classroom on their shoes.

Please ensure that all your child's clothes are labelled. We had a pile of unnamed clothes left at the end of last term. They are now in the blue lost property boxes at the back of school if you have lost anything.

Children are welcome to bring in sweets for their birthdays to share with their friends. If your child has a special dietary requirement you may wish to provide several treats that we can hand out as an alternative.

If you have any small thin plastic bags, we would appreciate them for any wet clothes that the children need to take home.

Thank you for your continued support, please come and ask if you have any queries.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 9th December – Nativity Play 9.30 am

Thursday 10th December – Nativity Play 9.30am

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Party

Homework 😊

As the weather has turned, please ensure your child has a **named, warm, waterproof coat** at school daily, as we go outside in all weathers.

If your child struggles to zip up their own coat; here are some top tips to increase their independence (especially with a new coat)

Fastening the Zip (Backward Chaining)

Zipping requires strong fine motor skills and two-handed coordination. Break it down using **backward chaining**, where your child finishes the last step first so they feel successful:

- **Step 1:** Connect the zip for your child and pull it halfway up, then ask them to pull it to the top.
- **Step 2:** Connect the zip at the very bottom and hold the base steady while your child pulls the slider all the way up.
- **Step 3:** Guide your child's hands to slot the pin into the zip box themselves, placing your hand over theirs to keep the bottom steady as they pull.
- **Step 4:** Let your child connect and pull the zip completely on their own.

Helpful Tips for School Readiness

- **Add a zip pull:** Attach a keyring, ribbon, or small piece of cord to the zip slider to make it much easier for small fingers to grip.
- **Practice off the body:** Let your child practice zipping and unbuttoning on pencil cases, backpacks, or a coat laid flat on a table before trying it on themselves.

Kind regards,

Reception Team