



Spring 1 2026



# Reception Update

## THEME FOR THE TERM

We have really enjoyed our first week back exploring the season of Winter, especially with the snow! Next week we are launching into our next project based upon space.

## LITERACY

We will start our topic by an in depth look at the book 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. Alongside this core text we will also read 'Whatever Next', 'Man on the Moon' and 'How to catch a star', continuing the space theme, as well as looking at non-fiction books to find out information about space.



We are encouraging writing through the use of drawing club in the afternoons. This begins with learning new vocabulary each week, with actions and lots of movement. We then enjoy a story, traditional tale, or short film clip together. Finally, the teacher models drawing a character, the setting or creating a new story scenario, adding words and number codes. The children then all get chance to do the same, using their own imagination and writing with very little support, with very much excitement! We'll be letting you know the vocabulary we are learning via Seesaw each week.

This term we will be working in groups for phonics consolidating our knowledge of sounds and continuing to practise blending. We will also begin the 'Penpals for Handwriting' scheme which divides the alphabet into 'families' which share similar letter formation. Further information about this scheme will be sent home at the end of this week.

Please continue to go through the sounds regularly with your child. As you do so, it is worth pointing out that the sounds most recently covered are special friends (digraphs), that is, two letters that make one sound.

## READING

We continue working on key words with our 'Word Wallets'. Please try to practise these regularly alongside the reading books and sounds. Once all of the words can be read easily, try reading them aloud for your child to spell.

We will continue to change reading books on a weekly basis. (Please send in the book and blue reading record on Thursday as we change them after school ready to give back on Friday). Please remember to date, sign and if necessary, write a short comment in the reading diary every time you read with them, as this will mean we can move them up the Reading Rocket.



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Circle time sessions continue to be an important part of this area of the curriculum. This term we continue to follow the Jigsaw programme. We have a weekly session which will cover a range of topics: our focus next half-term is 'Dreams and Goals'.

We will continue to award balls in our jar to children whose behaviour in school links directly to our values and are always happy to award extra ones to children whose parents tell us that they have been particularly respectful, resourceful, resilient or aiming high at home - do tell us !!





## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

As usual, the outdoor area continues to be an important part of our curriculum. *Please remember to send your child to school in warm, outdoor clothing every day.* During the winter weather, we will be asking the children to try to fasten their coats by themselves before going out to play (though we will help those who can't!) - please help them practise at home!



### Forest Schools

This half-term the first group of Octopus children will continue to have their turn. All other Starfish and Octopus children will have their sessions in Spring 2 or the Summer term. We are always looking for parent volunteers so please do let us know if you are able to help with your child's group.



## AND FINALLY....

... homework will start again this week and we will be asking you to tell us about your Christmas celebrations. Homework will continue to be set weekly usually alternating between a Seesaw activity or task in the homework books. Please do ask if you have any questions about this.

... We always welcome extra adult help in our unit. If your DBS check has been processed, please take it to the school office for photocopying and talk to us to arrange a mutually convenient time to help.

... We are running very short of spare clothes, particularly socks/tights. If you have any 'outgrown' items that you would be able to donate, we would be very grateful.

... We continue to welcome parents, carers and relatives on Tuesday afternoons after school. We hope you will find a few moments to come into school with your child, take the opportunity to look around the Reception unit, and perhaps have an informal chat with the teachers. Don't forget we also have a selection of puzzles and games which you may like to borrow on this day. We look forward to seeing you!

... On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding a Space themed evening for you and your child. Please see letter sent this week for further details.

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**