



Welcome to Reception. This term, Maple and Willow will be learning through the themes:



All about me & Animals

We will read and explore lots of books, such as Owl Babies, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and Dear Zoo. We will learn through play based activities, such as:



- ◆ Creating pictures and paintings of ourselves.
- ◆ Bringing in baby photos and playing 'Guess Who'.
- ◆ Going on our own bear hunt in our outside areas.
- ◆ Leaf printing and texture rubbings.
- ◆ Sequencing story pictures and using them to retell the stories in their own words.

We will use the basic skills we are taught in Literacy and Maths to support our learning throughout the curriculum.

The above themes and ideas are starting points for the children's learning. Where possible, we will plan activities based on the children's interests and in response to our assessments and observations.

Supporting learning at home



In the Foundation Stage, there are seven areas of learning. Here are some ideas for things you can do at home to help your child's learning. We would love to see any pieces of work or pictures of activities you have done uploaded to Tapestry.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- ❖ Practise doing up zips and putting on socks and shoes independently.
- ❖ Encourage your child to talk about their time in school. For example, 'Tell me something exciting that happened today' or 'What are you most looking forward to tomorrow?' Please talk to the staff about any worries the children have so that we can try to sort them out as soon as possible.

Communication and Language:

- ❖ Talk about their school day. What did you enjoy about today? What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
- ❖ Reread stories as much as possible so that the children know them well enough to tell the story in their own words.
- ❖ Draw a story map together and use it to retell the story.

Physical Development:

- ❖ Practise writing the children's names focusing on forming the letters correctly. If your child is not ready to do this yet, you could help them to develop the strength in their fingers and fine motor skills in preparation. For example, playing with playdough, building with construction kits, threading.
- ❖ Practise using scissors with an effective grip and with some accuracy.

Literacy:

- ❖ Read stories to the children, encouraging them to join in with the repeating phrases.
- ❖ Spot letters in the environment and practice saying the sound, e.g. on shop signs, in books etc.
- ❖ Practise writing the children's names using lower case letters (except for the first letter) and with correct formation.

Maths:

- ❖ Say number names in order and count objects accurately in everyday contexts, e.g. counting out plates for dinner.
- ❖ Talk about numbers we see in everyday life and how we can recognise them, e.g. numbers on buses or birthday cards.
- ❖ Use language to describe and compare the size of different people/characters, e.g. bigger, smaller, biggest.

Understanding the World:

- ❖ Look through photos of the children and other family members. How have they changed over the year?
- ❖ Talk about how things change from Summer to Autumn.

Expressive Arts and Design:

- ❖ Draw or paint pictures of themselves and their families.
- ❖ Make your own masks or puppets.

Please speak to a member of the Reception team if you would like any more information about how you can help your child at home. During the first parents' evenings, we will share more information about what we will be working towards by the end of the school year.

News / Coming Up...

Ask me about...

We will be encouraging the children to talk about their learning and what they have been doing at school each day. We know that many children will reply 'nothing' or 'I can't remember' when asked, and so please look out for 'Ask me about...' stickers to prompt conversation about some work the children have done or a special achievement.

Phonics

At our school, all year groups follow a phonics scheme called 'Read, Write, Inc'. Every year, we hold a meeting for Reception parents, where we will share information about how we teach phonics and early reading skills. This year, we will endeavor to hold the meeting as planned, although it may be organised differently. Please look out for a letter with more information over the next few weeks.



Please remember...

PE is every **Tuesday**. Please make sure a labelled PE kit is in school for each lesson.



Please bring book bags and a filled water bottle every day. At some point during the first few weeks, the children will start to bring reading books home. Please try to read with your children as often as possible (at least 3 times a week, if possible).