



Reception Autumn Term Newsletter

2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

We are delighted to welcome your children to Reception and have been so impressed with how well they have settled into their new classroom, routines and school environment. Starting school is a very exciting milestone, and we are looking forward to working closely with you to ensure that your child has a happy, successful and enjoyable year.

The Autumn Term will be a very busy and exciting time as the children develop their independence, make new friendships and begin their journey through school.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language is a key part of learning in Reception. We will provide lots of opportunities for the children to develop their listening, attention and speaking skills throughout the day.



The children will be encouraged to talk about their experiences, share their ideas and express their thoughts and feelings. Through stories, songs, rhymes, role play and discussions, we will introduce new vocabulary and encourage the children to use new words in context.

In the Autumn Term we will focus on:

- maintaining attention during carpet and circle times
- learning to take turns in conversations
- following simple instructions and developing understanding
- sharing ideas about families and personal experiences
- retelling familiar stories and joining in with familiar songs
- developing vocabulary through back-and-forth interactions with adults

We encourage you to support your child's communication and language development at home by sharing books and stories, singing nursery rhymes and asking questions about their day. Giving children time to respond and encouraging them to explain their ideas will help to develop their confidence and vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



During the Autumn Term, the children will continue to develop their confidence and independence as they become familiar with school routines and expectations. We will support them to make friendships, share and take turns, express their feelings and understand the feelings of others.

We will also focus on:

- making friends
- following classroom routines
- developing independence
- sharing and taking turns
- managing emotions
- building confidence and resilience
- understanding how to keep ourselves healthy and safe

We encourage children to become increasingly independent with everyday tasks such as putting on their coats, fastening shoes, using the toilet and looking after their belongings.

Physical Development

Physical Development is an important part of our Reception curriculum, with gross motor skills forming the foundational support for fine motor skills and handwriting development. The children will have regular opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills through both indoor and outdoor activities.

The children will take part in daily movement activities, outdoor learning and physical games. After the half-term, the children will also start PE lessons to further develop their coordination, balance and spatial awareness. We will also develop their fine motor skills, strengthening hand muscles through activities such as drawing, painting, cutting, threading and playdough.

Literacy

During the autumn term we will share a wide variety of carefully chosen stories, traditional tales, poems and non-fiction texts including:

- *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas
- *When Dragon Goes to School* by Caryl Hart
- *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy
- *So Much* by Trish Cooke
- *Astro girl* by Ken Wilson-Max

Rhymes include:

- The Wheels on The Bus
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Five Little Monkeys
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes



The children will have daily opportunities to listen to and talk about stories, join in with repeated phrases, learn new vocabulary and develop their confidence when speaking and listening.

They will explore mark making in a range of situations to develop early writing skills. They will begin to learn correct letter formation and develop correct pencil grip, including writing their name correctly.

Phonics



The children will also begin their Read Write Inc. Phonics journey. They will learn to read and write all 25 single letter sounds and use this knowledge to begin blending sounds together to read simple words.

It is extremely important that children practise their sounds and reading regularly at home. Your support makes a huge difference to their progress.

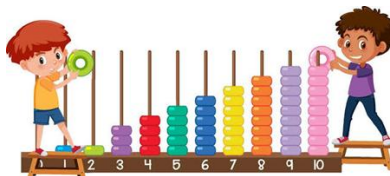
Mathematics

In mathematics, we will develop the children's understanding of numbers, counting and mathematical language through practical activities, games and exploration.

In the Autumn Term, we will begin by developing the children's understanding of numbers to five and then to ten.

The children will have opportunities to:

- Count objects accurately
- Recognise and write numerals
- Match numbers to quantities
- Compare groups and quantities
- Investigate patterns and sequences
- Explore 2D and 3D shapes.



We encourage you to look for opportunities to practise counting with your child, such as counting toys, steps, objects around the house or items while shopping.

Understanding the World



During the Autumn Term, we will explore topics such as ourselves, our families, our school and our local environment. The children will have opportunities to talk about people who are important to them and share their own experiences.

We will also explore the changes that happen during autumn, including changes to the weather, trees, plants and animals. The children will enjoy exploring natural objects and learning about the world through first-hand experiences.

As part of our learning, we will also explore different celebrations and traditions, including: Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have lots of opportunities to develop their creativity throughout the Autumn Term.



In art, the children will experiment with a range of materials, colours and textures. They will explore drawing, painting, printing and collage as well as create self-portraits.

In music, the children will enjoy singing familiar songs and nursery rhymes, exploring rhythm and experimenting with a variety of instruments.



Through role play and imaginative activities, the children will have opportunities to develop their creativity, communication and confidence.

Homework and Reading



Your child will bring home a reading book that is appropriate for their stage of development and a library book to share with an adult. Please spend time talking about the books with your child, asking questions and encouraging them to talk about the pictures and story.

At the start of each half-term (beginning in November), your child will also bring home phonics sounds to practise and words to read that match their current reading level.

Please read with your child for a minimum of 10 minutes a day and sign their reading record daily.

Additional home learning ideas will be shared on the Reception page of the school website and via Class Dojo.

School Uniform

It is important that children wear the correct school uniform every day and that all items of clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. Children should wear appropriate school shoes that they can manage as independently as possible – no laces. Please also send in a change of clothes in case your child's clothes get wet during play or they have a toilet accident.

With the weather becoming cooler and more changeable, please ensure your child has a suitable coat in school as we will be spending lots of time outdoors.

Snacks and Water

As part of our healthy school approach, children should bring a named water bottle containing water only. They will have access to their water throughout the day. At snack time, we encourage children to enjoy a healthy fruit or vegetable snack that is provided by the school. Children will also be offered milk every day via the Cool Milk programme which is **free until the age of five** after which, you can choose to pay for your child to continue receiving it by contacting cool milk directly at: <https://coolmilk.com/parents/>

Independence

One of our key priorities in Reception is developing children's independence.

Please encourage your child to practise:

- Putting on and taking off their coat
- Putting on their shoes
- Using the toilet independently
- Washing and drying their hands
- Opening their lunchbox and food packaging
- Tidying away toys
- Looking after their belongings.

These small steps make a big difference to children's confidence and help them to become successful, independent learners.

Communication

We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's first year at school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, development or welfare, please do not hesitate to speak to us by sending an email to our year group email address: reception@whitehallschool.org. You can also use your child's reading record to write quick messages for the class teacher.

We are very excited about the term ahead and all of the wonderful learning experiences we have planned for the children. Keep an eye out for the weekly photo updates that will be posted on Class Dojo showing the learning in your child's class.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hirani, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Salah

Reception Class Teachers