Reception Termly Overview – Autumn 2026 (Term 2)

Celebrations - Christmas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Unit: Valuing Differences (SCARF)

PSED lessons will cover: 'I'm special, you're special', 'Same and different; families/homes', 'I am caring', 'I am a friend.'

Literacy

Key Texts:

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen, 'The Gingerbread Man', 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' by Janet & Allan Ahlberg, and 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson.

Phonics / Reading:

There will always be a wide variety of books throughout the areas of play. We will use key books as a stimulus for our learning, these are stories that we will really enjoy and become familiar with so that the children can read them or share them with their friends. In phonics we will continue learning the Phase 2 phonemes and continue to develop the segmenting and blending of words in our daily sessions. We will learn the 'Tricky Words' and will be able to recognise and read these words in simple sentences.

Writing:

Our key books this term will be the stimulus for our writing as the children respond to the story through drawings, speech bubbles and captions as the children become authors themselves.

Communication and Language

The children will have lots of opportunities to talk and share experiences with others. They will be encouraged to extend their sentences by using words like 'and' or 'because'.

Physical Development

Children will have access to a range of resources and activities to help develop their dexterity and fine motor control e.g. threading, tracing, finger exercises and manipulating a range of construction kits. They will learn the correct formation of the families of letters using our 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting programme, which will also help them to build their upper body strength with daily exercises.

PE Unit: Gymnastics *(See Knowledge Organiser)*

RE Unit: Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?

We will be discussing Christmas and the nativity story, and learn that the nativity story comes from the bible – a special book for Christians.

Mathematics

White Rose Scheme of work: 'It's me, 1, 2, 3', 'Circles and triangles', '1, 2, 3, 4, 5' and 'shapes with 4 sides'.

We will be focusing on the 5 principles of counting:

- Stable Order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 1:1 Correspondence (count each item only once)
- Cardinality (how many in total?)
- Abstraction (what we can count)
- Order Irrelevance (how we count)

We will also be practising the skill of 'subitising', the ability to accurately determine a number without counting.

Understanding the World

Through discussion and the sharing of news and their experiences the children will talk about the lives of people who are familiar to them and talk about significant events such as birthdays. We will continue to look at the season of Autumn and the changes that happen around us as we move in to Winter.

Expressive Arts & Design

The children will use some of their skills from last term such as finger printing, painting and chalking to now create simple pictures. They will be encouraged to think about particular colours or materials they may need. We will create Christmas cards and calendars, and Christmas crafts using natural materials. We will also perform in our Christmas nativity play by singing and dancing together.

Music Unit: Celebration Music *(Kapow Primary)*