



Reception Curriculum Newsletter- Autumn 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Highwood Reception! We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child. We are pleased to share the skills and knowledge that will be covered through our Early Years curriculum over the next few weeks. It should give you an insight as to what we are doing at school and can be used to prompt conversations with your child about their learning.

Topics and key texts may change as the term goes on as we endeavor to follow the children's interests but the skills and knowledge, we teach them will be the same.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Miss Cobb, Mrs Rowland and the Reception Team

Reminders

Forest school is on Monday (Oak) and Tuesday (Ash). PE for Oak is Tuesday and PE for Ash is Friday.

Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on this day and that it is named. Please ensure long hair is tied back.



Library – Your child will bring home a library book every Tweek. Oak class sessions are on Wednesdays and Ash class sessions are on Thursdays. Please return each week so that they can select a new one.



Water bottles – please send a named bottle of drinking water in each day with your child.



Home-learning

Please see the home-learning grid for some fun activities you can do at home with your child to consolidate their learning. Please hand in your completed activities every Tuesday.

Take some time to look at your child's library book together. Encourage your child to talk about the pictures.

Most importantly – talk to your child about Reception and all the new things that they are doing.

Communication and Language

We will be playing games to develop our listening skills and to get to know each other. We will learn how to sit quietly and listen when others are talking. We will develop the confidence to speak to our new teachers and friends, both one-to-one and in small groups.

We will be learning lots of new words associated with the school routines.



Physical Development

We will be developing spatial awareness skills as we become used to our outdoor area.

We will be doing Busy Fingers and dough disco every day to improve our fine motor skills.

Once we have settled in, we will be doing PE lessons twice a week. During PE sessions, we will be following the Get Set 4 PE scheme, initially focusing on fundamental skills which include running and balancing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

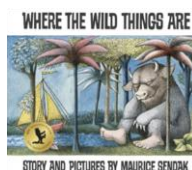
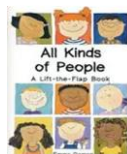
In Reception we will be playing lots of games to help us to learn everybody's names. We will be exploring the new classroom and outdoor area and becoming familiar with the rules and behaviour expectations. There will be lots of sharing and turn-taking going on, as we will all want to have a go at new activities.

Once we are all settled, we will start our PSHE programme – Jigsaw. We will become familiar with Jigsaw Jenie and Jerry Cat as we play games, learn how to be calm and share ideas with our classmates. We will be learning all about our feelings and being kind.



Literacy

The children will be introduced to lots of stories and rhymes. Some of our key texts will be:



We will learn to retell the stories using puppets, props and drama to develop our vocabulary.

We will be learning how to write our names and learning some new sounds. We will learn how to say, read and write them using our phonics scheme Read Write Inc.

Mathematics

In maths we will be learning lots of number rhymes and songs.



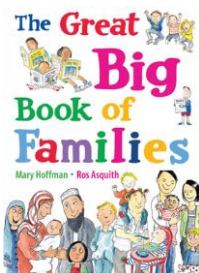
We will be doing lots of counting and learning to order and recognise numbers up to ten. We will be looking at recognising amounts and counting them carefully. We will also be looking at numbers all around us.

Understanding the World

We will be learning all about autumn as we observe the seasonal changes in the weather and our outdoor environment. We will go on a "welly walk" so that we can use our senses to explore.



Our first topic is called 'Marvellous Me'. We will be talking about our family, likes and dislikes and what makes us unique. The children will be encouraged to share their weekend news.



Expressive Arts and Design

Within the topic 'Marvellous Me', the children will learn how to draw and make a self-portrait of themselves.



We will be using natural materials to create pictures and collages, using what we collect on our "welly walk".

Our focus artist for this half term is Guiseppe Arcimboldo and Italian artist that used seasonal fruit and vegetables to create portraits.

We will be engaging in imaginative role-play in the home-corner where we can act out familiar scenarios. The role-play area will be enhanced throughout the year.

We will be learning about how to use the creative area and the resources, focusing on using scissors safely.

Request for donations

We constantly strive to improve our learning environment to make it more engaging and exciting for our children. We would be grateful for donations of any of the following that you may have and no longer need:

- Flour, salt and food colouring
- Plastic bags
- Any birthday cards (just the front)
- Autumnal items such as acorns, conkers, pine cones, etc.



While being voluntary the Early Years Fund is very much appreciated. From it we buy lots of little extras such as ingredients for making play dough and cooking activities. It is £7.00 each term. Payments can be made electronically through the School Gateway. If you need help with setting up this app, please speak to somebody in the office.