

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

In the autumn term, children will begin to recognise and name a range of basic emotions, such as happy, sad, angry and scared. They will be introduced to the Zones of Regulation to help them understand how their feelings affect their behaviour and how to manage them appropriately. Through stories, role play, and discussion, they will start to identify emotions in themselves and others. Children will begin to understand that all feelings are valid and learn strategies to help them feel calm and in control, such as breathing techniques or using quiet spaces. They will also explore how to express their feelings in socially appropriate ways and begin to develop empathy by listening to others.

Communication & Language

This term, children will develop their speaking and listening skills through songs, stories and daily conversations. Makaton signs and Widgeo symbols will be introduced to support understanding and encourage all children to communicate confidently. They will learn to listen carefully, follow simple instructions, and take turns in conversations. Adults will model clear speech and extend children's vocabulary through play and small group activities. Children will also begin to retell familiar stories and share their own ideas using full sentences.

Physical Development

This term, children will develop their movement skills through PE, dance and outdoor play. They will explore running, jumping, balancing and moving safely in different spaces. Seasonal dance activities will help them express themselves through movement. Fine motor skills will be strengthened through cutting, threading, and mark-making, helping prepare them for writing. Outdoor learning will support both gross and fine motor development as children explore the changing weather and natural environment.

Mathematics

In this term, Reception children will build on their early experiences with numbers by developing their subitising and counting skills. They will explore numbers within 5, noticing how they are made up of smaller parts. Children will compare groups of objects, recognising patterns using tools like a tens frame and begin to understand the idea of 'whole' and 'part'. They will also practise matching quantities to numbers, using finger patterns, and join in with counting, learning that each number is one more than the last.

Literacy

This term, children will explore a range of familiar stories, rhymes, and songs to build a love of reading and develop their listening and comprehension skills. They will begin to recognise names and sounds in spoken, and take part in phonics sessions to develop their early reading and writing skills. Children will learn how to handle books with care, talk about characters and events, and join in with repeated phrases and story language. As their confidence grows, they will start to give meaning to marks they make, attempt to write their name, and begin to form letters correctly. Children will be supported to communicate clearly, expand their vocabulary and develop a growing awareness of how spoken and written language works.

Autumn Overview Reception



Expressive Arts & Design

This term, children will explore creativity through music, storytelling, and art. In 'Me and My Stories,' they will use role play, movement, and music to express their thoughts and experiences. Children will sing songs, explore instructions, and respond to music with actions and dance. In art, they will experiment with drawing and printing techniques, using different tools and materials to create marks and patterns. Through all activities, children will be encouraged to share their ideas, make choices, and talk about what they have made.

Understanding the World

This term, children will learn about themselves and others through the topic 'All About Me', exploring their families, homes, and how people celebrate different festivals. They will notice how the weather and environment change during autumn and winter, learning to observe seasonal changes. In science, children will explore their senses and body parts, and begin to identify and sort animals, plants and their habitats. They will learn how living things change across the seasons and how to care for the natural world around them. As they observe the changing seasons, children will learn new vocabulary to describe weather, plants, and animals in autumn and winter. Children will begin to compare their own lives with those of others, recognising similarities and difference in families, culture and traditions.