Reception Early Learning Goals

End of year expectations for parents

At the end of Reception, teachers assess children against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs), which outline typical development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Your child's report will show whether they are working towards or at the expected level. Every child develops at their own pace, and these goals are a guide to celebrate their progress and achievements.

Understanding the World

Past and Present
- Talk about people and roles in their lives
- Understand differences between past and present
- Learn about the past through stories

People, Culture and Communities
- Describe their environment
- Recognise similarities and differences between cultures
- Understand life in other countries

The Natural World
- Explore and observe nature
- Compare different environments
- Understand seasons and natural changes

Literacy

Comprehension
- Retell stories and discuss what they've heard
- Predict what happens next
- Use new vocabulary in conversations and play

Word Reading
- Recognise letter sounds and digraphs
- Blend sounds to read simple words
- Read simple books matched to their phonics knowledge

Writing
- Form letters correctly
- Spell simple words by sounding them out
- Write short sentences that can be read by others

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-Regulation
- Recognise and begin to manage their feelings
- Work towards goals and control impulses (e.g. waiting their turn)
- Follow instructions and stay focused

Managing Self
- Show confidence to try new things
- Understand rules and behave appropriately
- Manage personal needs (e.g. dressing, toileting, healthy choices)

Building Relationships
- Share, take turns and play cooperatively
- Build positive relationships with others
- Show kindness and consideration

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention and Understanding
- Listen carefully in stories, discussions and activities
- Respond appropriately and ask questions
- Take part in conversations, building on what others say

Speaking
- Share ideas using a growing vocabulary
- Explain their thinking and talk about events
- Speak in full sentences, using past, present and future language

Mathematics

Number
- Understand numbers to 10 and how they are composed
- Recognise quantities up to 5 instantly
- Recall simple number facts (e.g. bonds to 5 and 10)

Numerical Patterns
- Count beyond 20
- Compare quantities (more, less, equal)
- Explore patterns, including doubling and odd/even

Physical development

Gross Motor Skills
- Move safely with awareness of others
- Show balance, strength and coordination
- Enjoy running, jumping, climbing and dancing.

Fine Motor Skills
- Hold a pencil correctly
- Use tools (scissors, brushes, cutlery) with control
- Create detailed drawings

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with Materials
- Use a range of materials creatively
- Talk about their creations
- Use props in imaginative play

Being Imaginative and Expressive
- Create and retell stories
- Sing songs and rhymes
- Perform and move to music