



RECEPTION TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 1 2026



Winter (1 week)

We begin this half term with a focus on the season of Winter. The days are getting colder and we will discuss the signs of Winter that children are noticing outside. Lots of awe and wonder discoveries as the children investigate the effects of Winter in our outside area with a frozen tuff tray. We will compare signs of Summer with that of Winter and practice our fine motor skills as we create our own snowflakes. We will also look at Antarctica and how this compares to England with regards to weather, animal life etc. In English, our focus text will be 'Snowball' by Sue Hendra and we will be making predictions as we read. The children will learn about rhyming words and will find and match rhyming pairs.

Ticket to Ride (5 weeks)

Our next topic is 'Ticket to Ride' where we will look at the different types of journeys we can go on and the transport we might use. Our focus texts will be 'Mr Gumpy's Outing', 'The Naughty Bus', 'The Train Ride', 'The Suitcase' and 'Topsy and Tim go on an aeroplane'. Children will begin to write short sentences using their phonic knowledge and use finger spaces between words. We will compare and contrast a range of types of transport and use junk modelling resources to create our own transport models. As our 'Sparkly Starter' to the topic, Reception children will venture out on a bus journey around the town to explore our local area. If you have any photos showing places you have visited by bus, train, plane, boat etc. then we would love for you to send these in to share with the class.

In Maths, we will focus on developing a secure understanding of numbers to 8 including conceptual subitising – spotting smaller groups of numbers within a set e.g. seeing 3 and 2 and knowing that makes a set of 5. We shall find 1 more and 1 less up to 8 and explore pairs of numbers including odd and even numbers. We will look at doubles of numbers, finding and making these. We shall also have a focus on mass and capacity ordering containers from least to most.

Supporting at Home

Beginning next week, our class teddy, Patch, will start coming home with a chosen child on a Friday. Each child will take it in turns to bring Patch home and keep him for the weekend. The focus will be to write about what adventures Patch has been and you are welcome to add photos if you would like but please bear in mind that the diary will be sent home with others and so photos will not be confidential.

A reminder that now the weather is getting colder, children are to wear appropriate, warm clothing such as a hat, gloves and a coat. These need to be navy coloured to fit in with school uniform requirements please.

As parent's evenings were held in November, the next meeting for Reception parents will be held after the February half term and more information will follow nearer the time. In the meantime, you can always contact me via Tapestry if you have any questions or concerns.

Supporting your child with reading

Please continue to read with your child on a daily basis and record any home reading in their yellow, home-school diaries. A reminder that these need to be left in bookbags throughout the week so that any reading done at school can also be recorded in diaries. Reading books will continue to be changed once per week on a Thursday.

Phonics home learning will continue to be sent home on a Friday and it is always lovely to see the completed sheets brought back into school to celebrate with others.

Diary Dates

Local Bus Journey – W/C: Monday 19th January

Any additions to these will be sent out via school spider updates as and when necessary.

Many thanks,

Mrs Darnell