

Reception

Shine Brightly Curriculum

Spring 2026



Overview of the spring term curriculum

Communication and Language Development	Personal, Social and Emotional	Physical Development	Literacy	Maths
How can we speak with confidence?	How can we regulate our feelings and keep trying when we face challenges?	How do we develop our fine motor control and an understanding of how to be healthy?	How do we write simple words and phrases? Talk for Writing: The Three Little Pigs and The Gruffalo.	How do we make numbers? White Rose: Alive in 5, Mass and Capacity, Growing 6, 7 and 8, Length, Height and Time, Building 9 and 10, Explore 3-D Shapes.
Understanding the World (Science)	Understanding the World (Geography)	Understanding the World (RE)	Understanding the World (History)	Expressive Arts and Design (Art, DT and music)
Where do animals live?	How can we describe the immediate world around us?	Jigsaw RE: How do people celebrate? What is Easter?	What do we know about our local community?	How can we express ourselves through music and dance?



Communication and Language Development

Term: Spring

Focus: How can we speak with confidence?

We are learning to be able to express a point of view and to debate when we disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. (age 3-4)

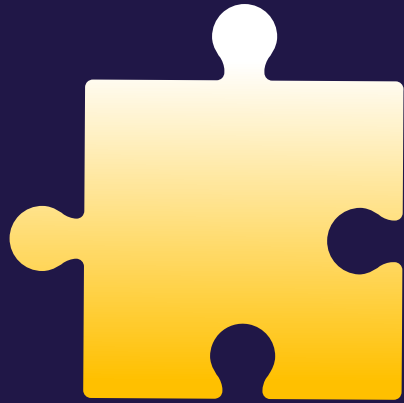
We are learning to use new vocabulary throughout the day and begin to use the new vocabulary in different contexts.

We are learning to articulate our ideas and thoughts in well - formed sentences and connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives enabling us to describe events in some detail.

We are learning to ask questions to find out more and to check we understand what has been said to us.

We are learning to use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work and why they might happen.

We are learning to participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering our own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. (ELG)



Personal, Social and Emotional

Term: Spring

Focus: How can we regulate our feelings and keep trying when we face challenges?

We are learning to express our feelings and consider the feelings of others so that we can identify and moderate our own feelings socially and emotionally (3-4)

We are learning to show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. (3-4)

We are learning to be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. (ELG)

We are learning to show an understanding of our own feelings and those of others and begin to regulate our behaviour accordingly. (ELG)

We are learning to explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly. (ELG)

Jigsaw modules – Dreams and goals and relationships.

- I understand that if I persevere I can tackle challenges.
- I can tell you about a time I didn't give up until I achieved my goal.
- I can set a goal and work towards it.
- I can use kind words to encourage people.
- I understand the link between what I learn now and the job I might like to do.
- I can say how I feel when I achieve a goal and know what it means to feel proud.



Physical Development

Term: Spring

Focus: How do we develop our fine motor control and an understanding of how to be healthy?

We are learning to confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.

We are learning to develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility.

We are learning to further develop and refine a range of ball skills including; throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming

We are learning to know and talk about the different factors that support our overall health and wellbeing:

- Healthy eating
- Toothbrushing
- Sensible amounts of 'screen time'
- Having a good sleep routine
- Being a safe pedestrian

We are learning to develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.

We are learning to begin to show accuracy and care when drawing (ELG)

We are learning to hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. (ELG)



Literacy

Term: Spring

Focus: How do we write simple words and phrases?

We are learning to re-read books to build up our confidence in word reading, their fluency and our understanding and enjoyment.

We are learning to read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.

We are learning to read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme.

We are learning to form lower-case and capital letters correctly.

We are learning to spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s

We are learning to write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.

We are learning to re-read what we have written to check that it makes sense.

We are learning to demonstrate understanding of what has been read to us by retelling stories and narratives using our own words and recently introduced vocabulary. (ELG)

We are learning to anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. (ELG)

We are learning to say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs. (ELG)



Maths

Term: Spring

Focus: How do we make numbers?

As mathematicians, we are learning to count objects, actions and sounds.

As mathematicians, we are learning to subitise numbers 1-10.

As mathematicians, we are learning to compare numbers.

As mathematicians, we are learning to understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers to 10.

As mathematicians, we are learning to explore the composition of numbers to 10.

As mathematicians, we are learning to compare length, weight, capacity and time.

As mathematicians, we are learning to explore 3-D shapes.

As mathematicians, we are learning to select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.

As mathematicians, we are learning to compose and decompose shapes so that we recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.

As mathematicians, we are learning to explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds and double facts. (ELG)

White Rose – Alive in 5. Mass and Capacity. Growing 6, 7, 8. Length, Height and Time. Building 9 and 10. Explore 3-D Shapes.



Understanding the World Science

Term: Spring

Focus: Where do animals live?

Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. (ELG)

Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter. (ELG)

We are learning to explore rainbows and shadows.

We are learning to explore a range of materials, including natural materials and use these to make objects.

We are learning to observe, measure and record how materials change when they are heated and cooled and make comparisons of these changes.



Understanding the World Geography

Term: Spring

Focus: How can we describe the immediate world around us?

As geographers, we are learning to recognise some environments that are different to the one in which we live.

As geographers, we are learning to continue to draw information from a simple map, explore the natural world around us and describe what we see, hear and feel whilst outside.

As geographers, describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts, and maps. (ELG)



As theologians in Reception, we are learning:

R.E

Term: Spring

Focus: How do different cultures and religions celebrate?

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate New Year.

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate Chinese New Year (A Story from China).

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate Chinese New Year (A Story from China).

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate Persian New Year (A Nowruz Story).

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate Persian New Year (A Nowruz Story).

As theologians, we are learning to understand how people celebrate Holi (A Sanatana Dharma Festival).



As theologians in Reception, we are learning:

R.E

Term: Spring

Focus: What is Easter?

As theologians, we are learning to explore the signs of Spring and how it is different to Autumn, Winter and Summer.

As theologians, we are learning to explore what new things happen in Spring.

As theologians, we are learning to explain what we know about Easter and what makes Easter special.

As theologians, we are learning to explore the Easter Story and why it is so important to Christians.

As theologians, we are learning about what happened to Jesus and his disciples.

As theologians, we are learning to retell the Easter story.



Understanding the World History

Term: Spring

Focus: What do we know about our local
community?

As historians, we are learning to compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.

As historians, we are learning to comment on images of familiar situations in the past.

As historians, we are learning to talk about the lives of the people around us and their roles in society. (ELG)

As historians, we are learning to understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling. (ELG)



Expressive Arts and Design (Art, DT and music)

Term: Spring

Focus: How can we express ourself through music and dance?

We are learning to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing our feelings and responses.

We are learning to watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing our feelings and responses.

We are learning to explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

We are learning to sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs; Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music. (ELG)



Modern Foreign Languages - French

Term: Spring

Focus: Let's Sing /Listen and Join in

As linguists, we are learning to begin to be aware of some of the sounds of a new language.

As linguists, we are learning to begin to explore our listening skills to help hear sounds and words in a new language.

As linguists, we are learning to explore how to listen and join in with rhymes, songs and stories.

As linguists, we are learning to explore how to join in with games, played in a different language.

As linguists, we are learning to explore how to say some of the new sounds and words we hear in a different language.



As designers in Reception, we are learning:

D.T

Term: Spring

Focus/Unit: Creating a structure – Build a home for the 3 Little Pigs

As designers, we are learning to understand what a structure is and its purpose.

As designers, we are investigating the materials used to create a structure.

As designers, we are exploring how to make a structure using different joining techniques.

As designers, we are learning to design a house for the 3 little pigs.

As designers, we are learning to make a house for the 3 little pigs.

As designers, we are learning to evaluate our structure.