

Class 1 - Summer Term 2026

Postcards from the Past

Our final topic for the year is *Postcards from the Past*. Granny Fantastic will guide us on a journey into her childhood, helping the children explore how life has changed over time. We will be learning about grandparents and comparing toys, holidays, clothes, and family life from the past with our lives today. If your child would like to bring in any photographs or special objects to support this topic, they are very welcome to do so. Alongside this, our key text, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, will inspire a swashbuckling pirate adventure. Through a range of fiction and non-fiction books, the children will explore the line between the real and the imaginary, using this familiar story as a starting point to create their own pirate-themed versions—I am really looking forward to seeing where their imaginations take them.

This term, Reception will be focusing on extended writing tasks. The children will explore a range of genres, including adventure stories, instructions, recounts and poetry. We will be placing a strong emphasis on accurate punctuation, particularly the use of capital letters and full stops, while also beginning to introduce question marks and exclamation marks. Each child will be given a writing journal to take home, encouraging them to write in their own time—this could be anything from a list of favourite toys to a mini adventure story, as long as it is child-initiated and enjoyable. There will also be an opportunity for children to share their work with the class on Monday mornings.

In Numeracy, we will continue to develop mental maths strategies, focusing on rapid recall of key number facts such as number bonds to 10, as well as doubles and halves within 10. The children will also apply their understanding to solve real-life problems involving simple addition, subtraction, doubling and halving.

Reception will be working particularly hard this term as they prepare for their transition into Class Two. We will continue to develop their resilience and independence, supporting them to approach new challenges with confidence. Simple routines, such as taking responsibility for their belongings at the beginning and end of the day, play an important role in helping children become independent, confident learners.

Our Nursery children will also begin preparing for their move into Reception. They will take part in more structured group activities, with a focus on developing listening and attention skills. We will continue to support pencil control through a range of activities, encouraging correct pencil grip, letter formation and early writing patterns. If you would like any guidance on supporting this at home, please do ask. You can also help by encouraging independence in everyday tasks such as using a knife and fork, getting dressed, following simple instructions, and putting on coats and shoes independently.

We will continue to support all children in developing their speech and language skills, which are essential foundations for reading and writing. Modelling full sentences, using correct tenses, and encouraging children to say “I” instead of “me” will help them to build confidence and accuracy in their communication.

I am looking forward to a very fun and busy Summer Term with the children.

As always, please feel free to grab me at the beginning or end of the day if you have any worries.

How can I support my child at home?

In the Early Year, children's learning is supported through the **seven areas of learning**, which help them grow into confident, curious, and independent learners. These areas include: **Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design**. We ensure that every activity—whether reading a story, exploring numbers, playing imaginatively, or talking about family life—supports one or more of these areas. By focusing on all seven, we help children develop a wide range of skills, from thinking and problem-solving to expressing themselves creatively and building positive relationships with others. Below are some ideas on how you can support your child to develop all areas of learning at home.

Nursery

Communication and Language

- Talk with your child as much as possible—describe what you are doing and ask simple questions.
- Encourage them to answer in full sentences (e.g. "I am playing with cars").
- Share stories daily and talk about the pictures together.

Physical Development

- Practise fine motor skills through colouring, drawing, threading beads, or using playdough.
- Encourage independence with dressing, using cutlery, and putting on shoes and coats.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Support turn-taking through games and sharing toys.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and choices.

Literacy

- Read together every day—repetition is great for building confidence.
- Sing nursery rhymes and explore sounds in words (e.g. "What sound does 'cat' start with?").
- Encourage mark-making—this could be drawing, colouring, or early writing.

Mathematics

- Count everyday objects (stairs, toys, snacks).

- Talk about numbers in the environment (house numbers, buses, etc.).
- Explore shapes and sizes through play.

Understanding the World

- Talk about family, past events, and special memories.
- Explore the local environment—parks, shops, and walks.
- Notice changes in weather and seasons.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Encourage imaginative play (role play, dressing up, small world toys).
- Use arts and crafts—painting, sticking, and junk modelling.
- Sing songs and explore music and movement.

Reception

Communication and Language

- Encourage conversations using full sentences and correct grammar.
- Ask questions about stories—“Why did that happen?” or “What might happen next?”
- Model and encourage good listening skills.

Physical Development

- Practise correct pencil grip and letter formation through drawing and writing.
- Continue to build independence with dressing, hygiene, and organisation.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Encourage resilience—praise effort and trying again.
- Support independence by giving small responsibilities at home.
- Talk about feelings and how to manage them.

Literacy

- Read regularly and discuss the story, characters, and events.
- Encourage writing for a purpose (shopping lists, labels, simple stories).
- Practise using capital letters and full stops, and begin to explore question and exclamation marks.

Mathematics

- Practise number bonds to 10 (e.g. $5 + 5$, $6 + 4$).
- Explore doubles and halves using real objects.

- Use maths in everyday situations (sharing food, counting money, simple addition and subtraction).

Understanding the World

- Talk about how life has changed over time (e.g. grandparents' childhoods).
- Explore different places, cultures, and experiences through books or outings.
- Encourage curiosity—ask questions and investigate together.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Encourage storytelling through play, drawing, or writing.
- Provide opportunities for creative activities such as painting, building, and crafting.
- Explore music, rhythm, and imaginative role play.

These activities are most effective when they are fun, relaxed, and part of your everyday routines. Even small moments—like chatting at dinner or counting steps—can make a big difference to your child's learning.