HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception Curriculum Information

Autumn Term 2 • 2026–27

Welcome back!

We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful half-term break! We are looking forward to another exciting half term in Reception.

Our new learning theme is "Let's Celebrate!" We will explore different celebrations, traditions and special occasions, learning how people celebrate with their families and communities. We will enjoy exciting opportunities to learn through stories, songs, creative activities and play.

Our big questions!

What is a celebration? What do we celebrate?

Literacy

As readers and writers, we will continue our daily Time for Phonics lessons, learning new sounds and developing our confidence in blending sounds to read words.

We will practise:

- Recognising and writing our taught sounds.
- Blending sounds to read words and simple sentences.
- Segmenting words to spell and write independently.
- Forming letters correctly, remembering where to start each letter.
- Developing our vocabulary and storytelling skills through exciting books linked to celebrations.

We will also enjoy writing Christmas lists, cards, invitations and messages for different celebrations.

Mathematics

As mathematicians, we will continue to follow our NCETM Mastering Number programme, developing a deep understanding of numbers through practical activities, mathematical talk and exploration.

- Develop our understanding of numbers 4 and 5, recognising and representing different quantities.
- Practise subitising, recognising how many objects there are without counting.
- Explore the composition of numbers, discovering the different ways that 4 and 5 can be made.
- Match numerals to quantities and develop our counting skills.
- Compare groups of objects using the language more than, fewer than and equal to.
- Explore one more and one less through practical activities.
- Investigate shapes, patterns and positional language through our Christmas and celebration activities.

We will encourage the children to explain their mathematical thinking and notice numbers and patterns in the world around them.

Religious Education

As children of God, we will explore Prophecy and Promise, learning about the special time of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will discover the Christmas story, reflect on the importance of Mary and Joseph, and think about how we can show love, kindness and care towards others.

Understanding the World

As explorers, we will learn about celebrations and traditions including Bonfire Night, Diwali, birthdays and Christmas. We will discover how families celebrate in different ways and recognise similarities and differences between our own experiences and those of others.

Communication and Language

As communicators, we will have lots of opportunities to share our own experiences, talk about family traditions and listen carefully to others. Through stories, songs, role play and group discussions, we will be introduced to new vocabulary, encouraging children to speak in full sentences and helping them to ask and answer questions. We will also encourage children to explain their ideas, retell familiar stories and develop their confidence when speaking in front of others.

Physical Development

As active learners, we will continue to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills through daily opportunities to move, balance, climb, build and explore. We will strengthen our hands and fingers through Funky Fingers activities, dough, threading, cutting and mark-making, helping us to become increasingly confident writers.

Expressive Arts and Design

As artists and designers, we will express our creativity through a range of exciting activities, including firework pictures, colourful patterns, decorations, cards and festive crafts. We will explore different materials, colours and techniques, developing our imagination and creative skills.

As musicians, we will enjoy singing songs, rhymes and Christmas music, exploring rhythm, beat and different sounds. We will develop our confidence in performing together and expressing ourselves through music and movement.

PSHE

In PSHE, we will learn about the importance of kindness, friendship, respect and belonging. We will explore how different families and communities celebrate special occasions, recognising that we are all unique and that our differences should be valued and celebrated. We will continue to develop our understanding of feelings and emotions, using our Zones of Regulation to help us recognise how we feel and explore ways to manage our emotions. Through stories, circle time and play, we will focus on sharing, taking turns, building positive relationships and showing kindness towards others.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to ask!